

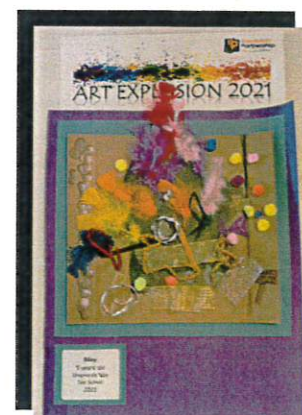
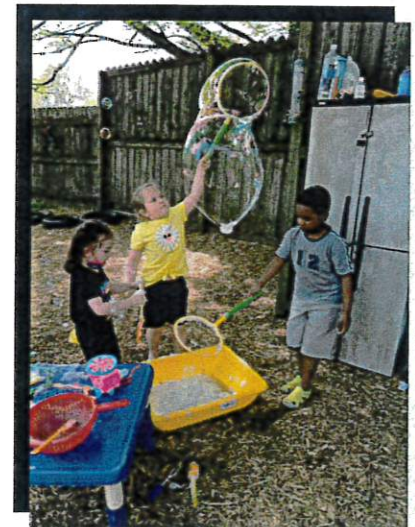
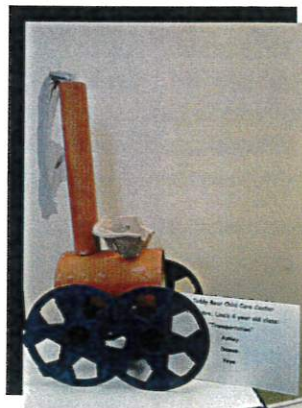
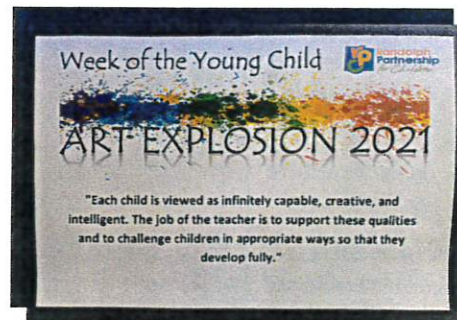
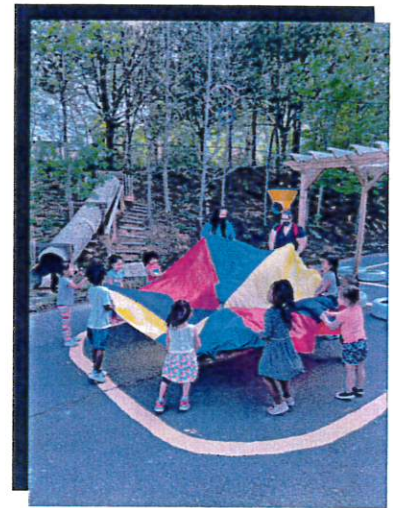
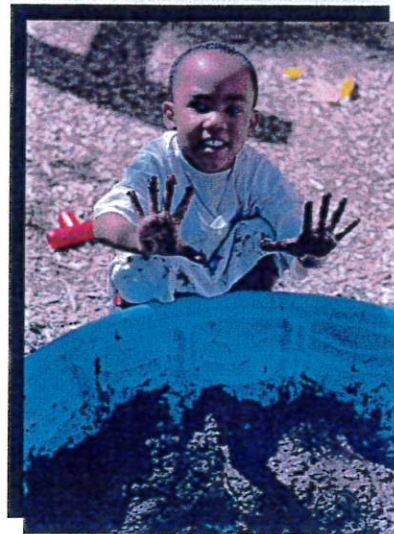
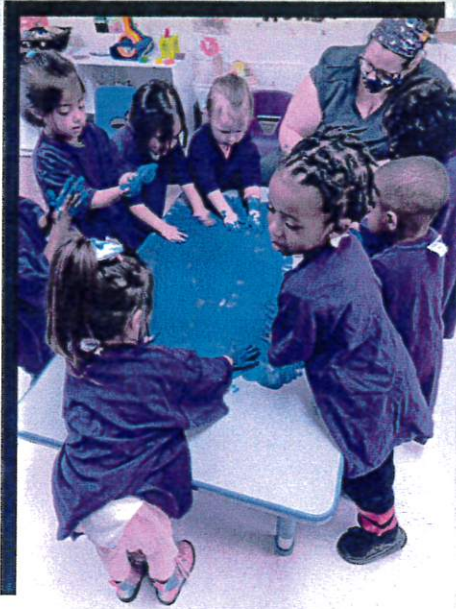
Early Education Explorations

Discovery, Investigation & Experiences in
Randolph County's Quality
Early Care & Education

Vol.19 Issue III

July-September 2021

A quarterly publication of
the Randolph Partnership
for Children, providing
resources for the early
childhood community.



Randolph Partnership for Children

To add your name to our mailing list please contact us! Include your name, address, phone, fax, etc.

349 Sunset Avenue
Asheboro, NC 27203
Phone: 336-629-2128
Fax: 336-629-2135



Summer Olympics 2021

What a great way to add fun physical activities to your outdoor play by creating your own OLE Olympic games!

- Relay races
- Broad jump
- Balance beam
- Obstacle course
- Ring toss
- Hula Hooping
- Pool Noodle Hurdle

As children hear and watch the Olympic events this can be a great opportunity to encourage teamwork, participate in new sports activities and learn more about the Japanese culture.



The Outdoor Classroom

Children thrive outside! Daily access to high quality outdoor spaces has compounding benefits. Long term physical, social emotional and cognitive benefits of daily interaction with nature is clear, especially for young children. Re-imagining early childhood education in presenting high quality outdoor play and learning as a critical part of a bold, post pandemic agenda will be to strengthen our early childhood system that prioritizes equity and embraces whole-child approaches.



Any learning experience from the classroom can be moved outdoors with a little forethought and imagination.

Art lends itself well to the outdoors. Easels can be set up under trees for budding artists to paint. Sidewalk chalk can be used safely on a variety of outdoor surfaces, finger paint can be fun outdoors. Sand sculptures, nature



collages and mud painting are fun and allow the children to experiment with a variety of materials and textures. Finished paintings can be hung on a fence to dry while providing an art exhibit for the entire group to enjoy.

Stories become dramas to be acted out, cloud gazing encourages imagination, and nature walks tell the children about the world around them. Children may see a teacher in an entirely new light when outdoor time becomes as interactive as the time indoors. Enjoy it together!



Music lends itself well to the outdoor learning environment. Musical instruments can help children form a marching band, Singing can be enjoyed on a stage or anywhere, and songs with actions can be enjoyed to the fullest in an open environment.

The outdoor environment gives children opportunities to explore, question, and develop theories about how things work. Children learn outdoors by interacting with

other children, with adults, with objects and with natural materials.

No outdoor experience would be complete without a garden! The children can plant and care for flowers as well as vegetables. A vase of cut flowers can be used as a backdrop for an art interpretation. A collection of harvested fruits and vegetables can be eaten and enjoyed with a STEM starting point. STEM learning starts with a lesson in one discipline that then lends to experiences in other disciplines, so that one is building on the next. Vegetables can be counted, compared by size and color, studied, sketched, dissected, and the results can be a shared learning experience.



Remember the sunscreen, be aware of the ozone, have ample amounts of water available on the outdoor learning environment and do not feel that outdoor time must be limited to one or two short increments per day. Remember best practice for physical activity for preschoolers is 120 minutes and 90 minutes for toddlers. On beautiful summer days most of the active play activities can be enjoyed outdoors.

Make this the year of the outdoor classroom!

Resource: Child Care News

Outdoor observations and experiences

After it rains, take the children outside to experience the environment. Have the children talk about what it smells like, feels like, and looks like. Ask them to make a hypothesis about where the rain has gone, and listen to their responses. Ask them to look for droplets on a leaf or a blade of grass and to notice when some surfaces have none. As the children continue with their inquiry, provide them with cups of water and an eyedropper so they can re-create raindrops falling on the different surfaces and explore what natural happens when it rains. Watch as they develop their sense of wonder.

Resource: EC Environmental Education

Professional Development

Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education NAEYC Position Statement: revised April 2019

All children have the right to equitable learning opportunities that help them achieve their full potential as engaged learners and valued members of society. Thus, all early childhood educators have a professional obligation to advance equity. They can do this best when they are effectively supported by the early learning settings in which they work and when they and their wider communities embrace diversity and full inclusion as strengths, uphold fundamental principles of fairness and justice, and work to eliminate structural inequities that limit equitable learning opportunities.

As we enter a new phase in our journey for advancing equity in Randolph County centers and classrooms, we thank Lakeshore Learning Company and Ron Mohl for helping jumpstart these hard conversations and pave the way for us to think about how we, as early educators, provide a more equitable environment for our children and families. We welcome Michael Royster from the Institute of Public Health Innovation to continue these discussions with a deeper dive in how to create an equitable community.

Please join our summer equity sessions:

Early Childhood Education Series:

July 27 & 29 6:30 - 8:30 pm virtual
Overview of Healthy and Equitable Communities

August 5 & 19 6:30 - 8:30 pm virtual
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

September 9 6:30 - 8:30 pm virtual
Community Participation and Power

Director's Institute: 12-2pm
September 16

Community Participation and
Power

September 23
Action Planning

Location: Venture Asheboro
138 Dublin Square Road
Asheboro

SUMMER!

In the summer, nearly everything comes into full bloom: flowers, fruits, kids! It's the season of play! Any seasonal fruit and vegetables, inexpensive and at peak of flavor makes it easy to eat as well.

Fruits are ripe and luscious. Strawberries, blueberries and other berries make their brief appearance at their freshest, cherries are red and sweet, grapes are in, and every kind of melon is sweet and juicy.



Some vegetables are a joy to grow! Cucumbers, eggplant, green snap beans, and lettuces of all varieties are in season. Peppers in all colors, green and yellow and red, are available. Summer squash is in. So are red ripe tomatoes and, that most summery of treats, corn on the cob.

Summer vegetables reach their peak of flavor and nutrition and offer wonderful rich gardening experiences!

Resource: Child Care News

UNSPERED LEARNERS

Teddy Bear Child Care Center Four and Five year old class
by Lisa Bowland, Lead Teacher

Our class was studying Spring and talking about plants and how they grow. We were given a planting kit and decided to plant some radish seeds. The children scooped dirt into their own peat pot and counted out the seeds. Then they made labels for the seeds so we would remember what we planted once it was in the garden. The children enjoyed smelling the dirt, talking about how small the seeds were, and were proud of their labels!



The Kids of Hope Toddler Class
by Sabrina Lucas, Lead Teacher

My children love bugs and critters. Anytime we find anything like this outside they all want to see it or touch it. We had planted some flowers in our boxes that the children couldn't help but play in and inspect so, we thought it would be fun to bring in some worms and let the children touch them and inspect them.

We made our own worms with yarn, painted and discussed what worms did for the plants and garden that we grew. Then we took the kids outside and had them help us put them into our flower garden so the worms would help our flowers to grow big and beautiful.



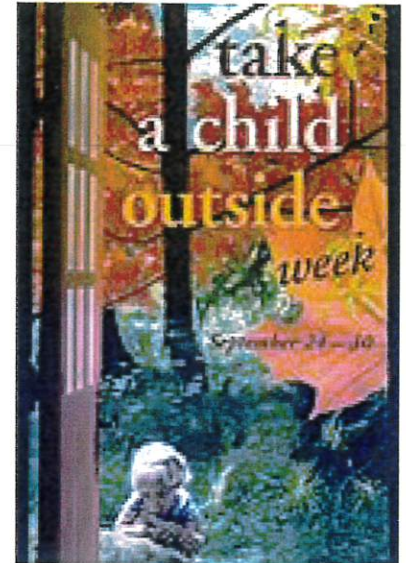
August 21, 2021
Broadcast live at
7 pm on YouTube



2021 Gala for the Children

Proceeds benefit critical
programs for young
children and families in
Randolph County

Visit: www.randolphkids.org
Table centerpieces provided by
Randolph County
child care programs



Outdoor Learning Environment Fall Summit: September 30, 2021

After a year long wait, we can finally highlight the incredible outdoor learning transformations that have taken place during the last phase of the Shape NC initiative. Even though Shape NC has come to a close, our work, inspiration and commitment continues! Join us on our 2021 tour to visit: Connie Redding Head Start, Harmony Place, It's A Kids World Pre-K/School Age and The Kids of Hope (these four sites participated in Shape NC Phase III), and our host site, the Early Childhood Development Center (Shape NC Phase II). More information to come!

Our Outdoor Learning Environment Fall Summit coincides with Taking A Child Outside Week to acknowledge the importance of connecting children to nature and the benefits outdoor play and learning bring to the development of the whole child!



mailing list, please call (336) 629-2128.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by
e-mail or would no longer wish to be on our

349 Sunset Avenue Asheboro, NC 27203

Child Care Services Program

