



Sidewalk Chalk

Monthly e-newsletter

OUR VISION

All children in Randolph County enter kindergarten healthy & ready to succeed in school and life.

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"A single gentle rain makes the grass many shades greener."

—Henry David Thoreau

Inspirations

This past weekend I turned off the television in my house for a few minutes to listen to the rain. In our technologically-centered homes and lives, it's easy to overlook all the ways we are we are one with nature.

One of the many things I admire greatly about the child care programs throughout Randolph County is the ways in which they help young children develop ecological identities and consciousnesses. At the Partnership, our Child Care Services team, under the leadership of Andee Edelson, does a great deal of work to help child care directors and early educators embrace nature as teacher. Over the years, it's really taken root! (Pun intended.)



Following the recent rain, I walked outside to see my flowers and plants, which had been withered and tired, standing tall and proud. "Earth laughs in flowers,"

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said. It occurs to me that the laughter is even lovelier when refreshed with a good summer rain.

Lisa Hayworth

Executive Director

Gardening in Early Education

Rain is great for vegetable gardens! Toddlers and preschoolers at local child care centers have grown lots of produce already this summer. They're learning how fun it is to grow, pick, and eat their own food!



It's A Kid's World
"Gardening"



It's A Kid's World
"Fresh Grown Veggies"



It's A Kid's World
"Pickling"



Teddy Bear Child Care
"Gardening & Observing"



Teddy Bear Child Care
"Harvesting"



Teddy Bear Child Care
"Center-Grown Ingredients"

Rain Play

In North Carolina, July is our rainiest, wettest month. So what can families and early educators do to engage children in play and learning during those super wet days?



Take them outside!

As long as there's no thunder or lightning, taking children outside to play in the rain offers lots of great benefits.

Benefits for toddlers and preschoolers include:

- Enhances Gross Motor Skills:** Jumping, running, and walking through puddles is a fun way to increase these skills. The fun of splashing encourages more movement, which builds skills.
2. **Enhances Balance:** Having to coordinate the brain with the body as they move about in the rain and puddles strengthens balance.
 3. Creates **science and nature** exploration and learning through sensory experiences:
 - **Cause & Effect:** Jumping or tossing rocks in puddles causes ripples.
 - **Sink & Float:** Dropping different materials (leaves, sticks, rocks) in puddles to see what will sink to the bottom and what will float across the top.
 - **Reflection:** Observing reflections in puddles or wet ground or seeing reflections and refraction in droplets on leaves or water collected in containers.

Playing outdoors in the rain brings so much joy to a child's day. It also helps parents, caregivers, and early educators feel at ease knowing their children are enjoying learning through play in an open environment.

Professional Development/Infant-Toddler Specialist Scarlet Welborn will discuss rain play on the July 22 Mommy Matters segment of the WHGP Fox 8 Morning News!

What are Child Abuse & Neglect?

This video from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention provides guidance on child abuse and neglect and what communities can do to support children and families.

child abuse and neglect

noun

1. Any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent, caregiver, or another person in custodial role that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child.
2. A preventable act.



Congratulations to The Growing Place!

Congratulations to Katherine Davis and her entire staff of early educators at The Growing Place Child Care Center in Asheboro. They recently received the **Breastfeeding Friendly Business Award**.

The award formally recognizes the center's support of breastfeeding. The Growing Place will now be featured in the list of Breastfeeding Friendly Businesses of the North Carolina Breastfeeding Coalition website at www.ncbfc.org.

By earning this designation, The Growing Place has ensure that new mothers who choose to breastfeed have a supportive and welcoming environment.

Research shows that breastfed infants are significantly less likely to suffer from illnesses, infections, and obesity. Also, mothers who breastfeed enjoy significant health benefits that include faster recovery from pregnancy and reduced risk of breast cancer and osteoporosis.





2021 Gala for the Children

Annual Fundraiser & Benefit Auction

Supporting Early Literacy and Early Care & Education in Randolph County

PRESENTED BY



Saturday, August 21

Learn more: www.RandolphKids.org



We also have a growing list of sponsors we're proud and grateful to announce:

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Penciled In

- **Wed., July 21, 11 AM:** Family Engagement & Leadership Coalition
- **Wed., July 21, 1 PM:** Auction Committee
- **Thurs., July 29, 1 PM:** Sustainability Committee
- **Fri., Aug. 13, 8 AM:** IF YOU GIVE 2021 Gala for the Children Online Auction OPENS
- **Wed., Aug. 18, 11 AM:** Family Engagement & Leadership Coalition
- **Fri., Aug. 20, 5 PM:** IF YOU GIVE 2021 Gala for the Children Online Auction CLOSES
- **Sat., Aug 21, 7 PM:** IF YOU GIVE 2021 Gala for the Children Virtual Live Stream (VIP Event: doors open at 5:30 PM)
- **Tues., Aug. 24, 8:15 AM:** Board of Directors Meeting



[Visit our Calendar](#)

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Randolph County!*

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