

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **RPC hosts Outdoor Learning Environment Summit**

*Five area early education programs highlighted during tour*

**ASHEBORO, N.C. (October 6, 2021)** — Asheboro Mayor David Smith welcomed early childhood professionals from across North Carolina to open Randolph Partnership for Children’s (RPC) 7<sup>th</sup> Fall Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) Summit held September 30.

“The OLE Summit provides an opportunity for early educators, community members, elected officials and others who work with young children to recognize the importance of creating active and engaging outdoor play and learning spaces,” RPC Director of Early Care and Education Andee Edelson said. “This movement in transforming Randolph County child care center ‘playgrounds’ into outdoor learning environment began in 2008. Randolph County has become the leader in sharing ideas and inspiring colleagues to see the possibilities for outdoor spaces in their own counties.”

The outdoor event hosted 52 participants, including Randolph County Commissioner Hope Haywood, Asheboro City Councilperson Eddie Burks, and Asheboro City School Board Member Gwen Williams. The day began with breakfast and opening remarks at Asheboro City School’s Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) in North Asheboro. Participants then split into two groups and spent the day touring five early education sites.

Lunch at ECDC featured a keynote address by North Carolina Partnership for Children President Amy Cabbage and an Insect Investigations activity led by Research Associate Professor and Director of Programs Nilda Cosco and Professor and Director Emeritus Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Robin Moore, both of whom were representatives of NC State University’s Natural Learning Initiative Design Team.

In addition to ECDC, the tour included The Kids of Hope, Harmony Place, It’s A Kid’s World, and Connie Redding Head Start. Participants reconvened at ECDC after the tours for outdoor-themed desserts, reflections and next steps, and to get a closer look at OLE project work exhibits.



Asheboro Mayor David Smith, left, welcomes participants to the Fall OLE Summit with RPC's Andee Edelson.



From left, Patty Sullivan, Amy Cubbage, Pam Hall, and Amanda Rochelle pose next to OLE design plans used at It's A Kid's World in Randleman.



Asheboro City School Board Member Gwen Williams is among the tour group at The Kids of Hope in Asheboro pictured with Director/Owner Andrea Price sitting in foreground.



From left, Lisa Hayworth, Amy Cabbage, and Hope Haywood pose in front of project work exhibits at ECDC.

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## PRESS RELEASE

**About the Randolph Partnership for Children:** Since 1999, the Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC), a non-profit organization, has positively impacted the lives of Randolph County's young children. As the community's lead organization for young children and their families, RPC works with and through diverse agencies, individuals, organizations, and communities to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed in school and life. RPC is a United Way agency. For more information, visit [www.randolphkids.org](http://www.randolphkids.org).

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