

Early Education Explorations

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

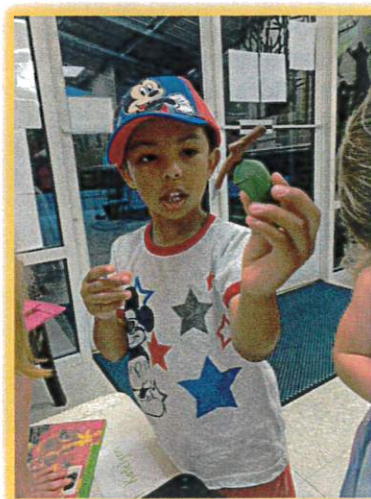
Vol.20 Issue III

July-September 2022

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



The Butterfly Project



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

Early Childhood Teachers

A moment of reflection....why we do what we do as early educators!

Paint their minds and guide their thoughts, Share their achievements and advise their faults.

Inspire a Love of knowledge and truth, As you light the path which leads our youth.

For our future brightens, with each experience you teach, Each smile you lengthen each goal you help reach.

For the dawn of each poet, each philosopher and king, Begins with a Teacher and the wisdom they bring.

By: Kevinn William Huff



Active Learning

Summertime provides a unique opportunity to immerse the outdoors into all aspects of daily classroom activities and experiences. What better way to bring in science, math, engineering, reading and all the essential components of early learning and development, but to provide your outdoor learning environment with a laboratory of equipment and tools for exploration, planning and reflection.

As Larry Schweinhart, early childhood program researcher and speaker, stated, "Active learning is the way we all learn. From our beginnings, our brains are constantly growing, connecting their synapses in new ways and into increasingly complex structures. At birth, we first learn to make sense of booming, buzzing confusion. We learn from what we see, feel, touch, taste, smell and do. We develop the special human abilities of language - speaking, listening, reading, writing, and discovering meaning. These new abilities enrich our lives with whole new realms of knowledge, but they never replace our immediate world of senses and activities. We learn what we do.

When we make a plan, we are learning how to work toward objectives. When we carry out a plan, we are learning how to follow through on what we say. When we review the plan afterwards, we are learning how to take responsibility. When children do what we tell them, they are learning how to do what we say. When we ask them what they want to do and they do it, they are learning how to take initiative.

The HighScope Educational Research Foundation conducted a long-term follow-up study of three types of preschool education: direct instruction, traditional preschool, and active participatory curriculum. Direct instruction teachers taught children lessons and how to give the right answers. Traditional preschool teachers let children do what they wanted and followed their lead. Teachers in the active participatory program had children plan, do, and review their own activities. All three groups of children became better prepared for school, but the two more child-led approaches seemed to better prepare children for life - with fewer emotional problems and fewer crimes committed as teens.

Children engaged in active learning learned not just from the lesson content, but also from the educational activities themselves.



Creating an environment of active play and learning with components of physics, mathematical, and architectural activities: Teddy Bear Child Care Center (l) and Precious Memories Preschool (r).



The value of open-ended and creative play is that it enables children to explore a variety of creative uses of common materials and environments, challenges conventional ways to use materials, and gives children a sense of power, control, and mastery of their own learning.

Open-ended play materials are those that offer children many ways to engage in them. In creative play, children use objects and toys to create stories, build constructions, and engage in a fantasy world. The use of materials/loose parts in flexible creative ways teaches children to be flexible and creative thinkers with abstract ideas and concepts.

Resource: The Wisdom of Play



Do you know how to get to Sesame Street? Sesame Street in Communities is designed to engage preschoolers in everyday learning by teaching core skills in Math, Literacy, STEM, and Social and Emotional Development.

Visit their website: www.sesameincommunities.org to find a variety of professional development topics via webinars, videos, courses and interactive sessions and classroom resource materials to help you to excite even the youngest learners. Sesame Street's message? Familiar characters evolve and speak different languages and reflect different cultures, and yet Sesame Street's universal message of kindness, self-esteem, and tolerance never changes.

Professional Development

A Love Letter to our Teachers.....

You are our heroes. Every day of this pandemic, you have blown us away with your creativity, compassion, commitment, your tenacity and heart. You have chosen to be an early childhood professional, not just during this crisis but against the backdrop of the everyday grind, to bring joy in the midst of struggle. But when we tell the story of this time, the work of teachers and what you have done to educate, nurture and inspire will be front and center.

We will begin a new school year united in recognition and value the essential role of teachers and early education. Taking care of and equipping yourself with tools and knowledge in creating an engaging, stimulating, yet, soothing environment can help melt the stress away.

Join us in celebrating YOU as we invite you to attend these training series' to support teachers in mind, body and spirit.

Education Support with Carrie Becker (5 session series)

- 9/14 The Co-Teaching Playbook: Communications and Sharing Responsibilities
- 10/19 Growth Mindset for Teachers
- 11/16 Teacher Self-Care
- 12/14 Many Hands Make Light Work -Teamwork for Teachers
- 01/18 Transforming Your Teaching Practice: From Sage on the Stage to Guide on the Side

Playful Pedagogy: Playing Out with Linda Kinney (4 session series)

- 7/23 Space for Play
- 8/13 Playful Inquiry
- 9/17 Play in Practice
- 11/5 Playing with the Elements (Playing with Earth, Wind, Fire and Water)



For Early Educators: Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environment Certificate

Strengthen your skills and knowledge to plan, manage, promote, organize and administer high quality play and learning environments. The course also introduces the participatory design process used by NLI in child care settings.

The overall course objective is to help participants understand how landscape design can support active lifestyles, promote mental health and wellbeing, encourage healthy eating, and motivate learning in, about, and through nature.

The certificate programs consists of 8 modules to be completed online, with optional online video conference sessions.

Fall session: Sept. 12 - Dec. 5, 2022

Cost: NC Residents: \$100

General Registration: \$480

2.4 CEU credit provided

To register: naturalearning.org



The Butterfly Project

Project based learning provides in-depth studies of concepts, ideas, and interests, which arise within a small or large group. Teachers help children make decisions about the direction of study, the ways in which the group will research the topic, the representational medium that will demonstrate and showcase the topic, and the selection of materials needed to represent the work.

Short or long-term projects enhance life-long learners as featured on the cover to include: First Church of God Day School, Harmony Place and The Children's Center of Asheboro and below at Kay Moorefield's Day Care Home.




"Many of our greatest thinkers locate their capacity for original and profound thought in their imaginative abilities, first developed through creative active play in early childhood."

Sharna Olfman,
Psychology Professor
Point Park University


A special thank you to Randolph County Cooperative Extension for donating the butterfly kits to all our early childhood programs. The butterfly kits helped jumpstart numerous butterfly studies across Randolph County and fostered environments of curiosity, inquiry, exploration and discovery.






NEWBORN - 1 YEAR

- Point at things and name them (dog, cat, house, car)
- Talk back and forth with your baby
- Play games with them while you are reading




1 YEAR - 2 YEARS

- Smile and answer your child's questions
- Encourage them to point at objects and name them
- Have them help turn the pages




2 YEARS - 3 YEARS

- Ask them questions about the book
- Talk about the pictures and what the words mean
- Let them pick out the book they want to read
- Reward them and set goals for reading



3 YEARS - 4 YEARS

- Point out letters and numbers
- Look at pictures and make-up stories about them
- Talk about the different characters
- Ask them their take on the story



4 YEARS - 5 YEARS

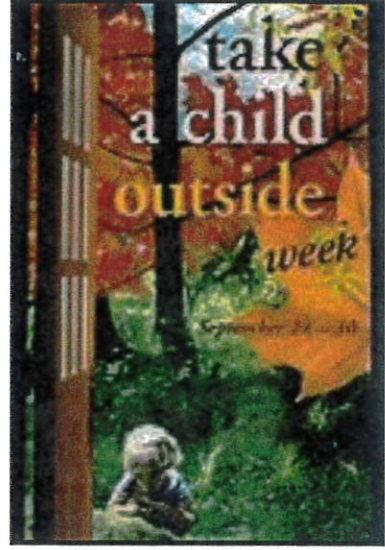
- Have your child tell the story
- Encourage writing and drawing
- Ask them the meaning of the story
- Have a conversation about what the words mean

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Want to make story time more engaging? Check out these tips for reading aloud to your children!

July 2022, Precious Memories Preschool celebrates their 30th Anniversary. Along with the tenure that Dawn Greene brings to her center, are a few child care professionals that also bring longevity to Precious Memories Preschool. We congratulate the entire staff on this very special milestone!





September 24 - 30

Stay and play outside all day during Take A Child Outside Week! Helping children to connect with nature and appreciate the environment in which they live!



Child Care Services Program
349 Sunset Avenue Asheboro, NC 27203
 If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail or would no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please call (336) 629-2128.

