



## *Sidewalk Chalk*

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### OUR VISION

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

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- **Welcome Back, Shannon!**
  - **The Basics in the Park and on the Trail**
  - **Check Out the Awesome Training Opportunities for Early Educators**
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**Of all the paths in life you take, make sure a few of them are dirt.**

*-John Muir*

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# **Welcome Back, Shannon!**



We are delighted to share some exciting news with our community! Shannon McCrary is rejoining the Randolph County Partnership for Children team as a Professional Development Specialist. Shannon, who previously served at our organization from 2010 to 2018 and then on our Board of Directors from 2018-2024, returns with invaluable experience from her tenure as the Preschool Director at **First United Methodist Church**.

In her pivotal new role, Shannon will dedicate herself to enhancing the professional growth of our early childhood educators. She understands that the foundation of every successful early learning environment is the educator's expertise and commitment. By focusing on meeting their training needs and supporting their ongoing educational journeys, Shannon will ensure that our educators are well-equipped to provide top-notch care and education.

The impact of well-educated and highly trained educators on early childhood development cannot be overstated. Their skills and knowledge are crucial in shaping the learning experiences and developmental outcomes of our youngest learners. With Shannon's guidance, our educators will continue to grow, directly influencing the quality of care our children receive during their most formative years.

Please join us in welcoming Shannon back to our team! We look forward to the

# The Basics in the Park and on the Trail

## TAKING THE BASICS OUTDOORS:

### Enhancing Family Time at the Park and on Trails

#### The Basics Can Go Anywhere

Embracing the great outdoors offers families an incredible opportunity to incorporate The Basics principles into their daily routines while enjoying the beauty of nature. Whether you're exploring a local park or venturing onto a scenic trail, these natural settings provide the perfect backdrop for enriching experiences that promote early childhood development.



#### Maximize Love, Manage Stress

The peaceful ambiance of parks and trails creates an ideal environment for fostering emotional connections and reducing stress. Spend quality time with your little ones by engaging in gentle activities like sitting together on a bench, observing nature, or sharing a heartfelt conversation. These moments of connection can strengthen bonds and promote emotional well-being for both children and caregivers.



#### Talk, Sing, Point:

Encourage language development and curiosity by engaging in interactive conversations while exploring the park or trail. Point out interesting sights like colorful flowers, chirping birds, or towering trees, and encourage your child to ask questions and express their observations. Singing songs or reciting rhymes can add a playful element to your outdoor adventure while promoting language skills and creativity.



## Count, Group, Point



Transform your outdoor excursion into a learning opportunity by incorporating counting, grouping, and comparing activities. Encourage your child to count the number of steps it takes to reach a destination, identify different types of leaves or rocks, or compare the sizes of various objects found along the trail. These simple yet engaging activities help develop early math skills and foster a sense of curiosity about the natural world.

## Explore Through Movement and Play

Let your child's imagination run wild as they explore the park or trail through movement and play. Encourage them to climb on playground equipment, balance on fallen logs, or chase butterflies through open fields. Outdoor play promotes physical development, coordination, and spatial awareness, while also providing opportunities for unstructured exploration and creativity.



## Read and Discuss Stories

Bring along a favorite book or story to enjoy together in a shady spot beneath a tree or on a cozy blanket in the park. Take turns reading aloud and discussing the plot, characters, and illustrations. Encourage your child to connect the story to their own outdoor experiences, sparking their imagination and fostering a love of reading while surrounded by nature's beauty.



## The Outdoors is a Great Place for Learning

By taking The Basics principles outdoors, families can create unforgettable moments of connection, learning, and exploration in the heart of nature. Whether it's a leisurely stroll through the park or an adventurous hike along a scenic trail, the great outdoors offers endless opportunities for families to grow, learn, and thrive together.



July is **Parks & Rec** month, a great opportunity to take The Basics outside!

Are you ready to turn your next visit to the park or trail into a vibrant learning playground? Nature isn't just beautiful—it's a dynamic classroom that beckons little ones to explore, learn, and grow. Today, we're diving into how you can

weave the magic of The Basics into your outdoor adventures, enriching those precious family moments while nurturing your child's development.

[Learn  
More](#)

## Check Out the Awesome Training Opportunities for Early Educators



### July

29th - Space for Play: Playful Pedagogy, **NC Zoo** Playing Out Series

### August

8th - Lesson Planning Basics: Lesson Planning Series

15th - Supporting Speech and Language Development

24th - Conscious Discipline Professional Development Day

### September

4th - Director's Institute: Back to School Bash

12th - Creative Curriculum: Moving From Themes to Studies and Child-Led Learning: Lesson Planning Series

23rd - Play in Practice: Playful Pedagogy, **NC Zoo** Playing Out Series

24th - Let's Take This Outside

[Visit the Training  
Calendar](#)

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## Penciled In

- **Monday, August 5, 12 PM** - NC Pre-K Committee Meeting
- **Tuesday, August 20, 8:15AM** - Board of Directors Meeting



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