



Sidewalk Chalk

OUR VISION

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

- **September Proclaimed Smart Start Month!**
 - **How Does The Partnership Support Families?**
 - **How Does The Partnership Support Early Childhood Education?**
 - **How Does The Partnership Support the Community?**
 - **How Can You Support The Partnership's Good Work?**
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Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.

-Dr. John Trainer

North Carolina Proclaims September Smart Start Month!



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

SMART START MONTH
2024

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the nationally recognized Smart Start Network has worked to ensure all young children enter school healthy and prepared for success throughout North Carolina for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the first five years of life are a critical window of development, shaping a child's brain architecture and building the foundation for future cognitive, social, emotional, behavioral, and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, high-quality birth-to-five strategies and programs focusing on early education, health and well-being, and family support are critical to help children thrive and reach their potential, building stronger K-12 and post-secondary educational opportunities for them and ensuring a more skilled workforce throughout our state for our future; and

WHEREAS, the Smart Start Network supports quality early care and education, preventative health services, and family support for children from birth to five years old, and has a proven track record in improving early childhood education, promoting healthy births, preventing child abuse and neglect, enhancing family support systems, and fostering childhood resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the Smart Start Network provides infrastructure for North Carolina's early childhood system by serving all 100 North Carolina counties through 75 local partnerships that build collaboration and coordinate services, bridge service gaps, raise awareness, and incorporate community voices and needs in program design and delivery to ensure each community receives the support it deserves; and

WHEREAS, the Smart Start Network is committed to promoting equity through ensuring all children - especially those historically denied access - can benefit from the resources and opportunities they need to succeed; and

WHEREAS, the Smart Start Network recognizes and supports early childhood teachers and providers as the essential workforce behind the workforce and the important role they play in helping children and families thrive and in enhancing North Carolina's businesses and economy; and

WHEREAS, investing in high-quality early childhood initiatives like the Smart Start Network can yield substantial long-term benefits for children, families, and society through increased educational attainment, higher earnings, reduced crime, and better health outcomes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2024, as "SMART START MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirteenth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

The State of North Carolina proclaims September Smart Start Month!
Thank you to our local community partners, our state and community leaders, early childhood leaders, and the families we serve who are part of our Smart Start family.

Through continual support and investments in Smart Start, we can ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive!

The **Smart Start Network** is comprised of the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPCC) and 75 local Smart Start Partnerships that work to shift mindsets and the public narrative about children birth-to-five and their families. The impact we have locally is happening statewide as we work to ensure each child in North Carolina can thrive!

As a partner of the Smart Start Network, we are committed to raising the quality of early childhood care and education, partnering with families to build on their strengths, and improving community health. We also work to create a stronger early childhood system where each community receives evidence-based and evidence-informed services that best meets its needs.

[Read the Proclamation](#)

How Does The Partnership

Support Families?



For Smart Start September, we're highlighting how Randolph Partnership for Children supports families in our community. Here are some of the key programs we offer:

Parents as Teachers (PAT):

This program helps parents and caregivers with young children. We fund the Parents as Teachers program, and the Randolph County Public Library administers the service. Two educators visit families at home to share helpful information and tips for raising children. The program also offers group meetings, free health and development screenings for kids, and connections to local resources. It's all about giving parents the tools they need to be their child's first and most important teachers.

Child Care Subsidy:

Child care can be expensive, often costing more than college tuition. To help, we provide funding for the Child Care Subsidy Program, which offers financial assistance to working parents or those in job training. Families who qualify can use these subsidy vouchers at licensed child care centers, family care homes, and some religious programs in Randolph County. Because the need is high, there's a waiting list managed by the Randolph County Department of Social Services, which administers the subsidy program.

NC Pre-K Program:

We also administer the NC Pre-K program, which gives eligible 4-year-old children access to a free, high-quality education. This program helps kids grow socially, emotionally, and academically, getting them ready for kindergarten and beyond. NC Pre-K classrooms operate throughout the county in collaboration with the Randolph County Schools System, Asheboro City Schools, Regional Consolidated Services, Randleman Enrichment Center, and Childcare Network #146.

Randolph Books for Babies:

Every baby born at Randolph Health receives a special gift from us—a tote bag filled with early literacy items, parent support tools, board books, and a blanket. This program, Randolph Books for Babies, started in 2017 and is now managed by our organization. Each bag also includes the baby's first library card and information on enrolling in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library:

We're proud to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Randolph County. This program mails a free book to your child every month from birth until they turn five. The first book they receive is "The Little Engine that Could," and the last is "Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come." This program helps kids build a love for reading and their own personal library at home.

These programs are just a few ways we're working to support families in Randolph County. We're excited to share more throughout Smart Start September!

How Does The Partnership Support Early Childhood Education?



At Randolph Partnership for Children, we're dedicated to helping early educators succeed. Here's how we support early education in our community:

ProDEC:

Our Professional Development Early Education Cohort (ProDEC) program is designed to help early educators in Randolph County who are working toward earning their credentials or degrees in early childhood education. Cohort members set personal goals, engage with peers, and receive ongoing support to help them succeed in their educational journey.

Training and Workshops:

We offer a variety of training sessions and workshops based on feedback from early educators and observed needs. These include sessions on NC Foundations, which focus on **North Carolina's Early Learning and Development** expectations for children from birth to age five. Participants learn how to integrate these standards into their daily routines, supporting the six key learning domains: Approaches to Learning, Emotional and Social Development,

Health and Physical Development, Language Development and Communication, Cognitive Development, and Supporting Dual Language Learners.

We also offer curriculum training that aligns with these standards, ensuring that licensed care providers in Randolph County are using comprehensive, evidence-based practices. These sessions are offered regularly, with calendars sent to providers on a quarterly basis.

Childcare Health Consultant (CCHC):

We fund the Childcare Health Consultant for Randolph County, a trained health professional who works with early care and education programs to create safe and healthy environments for children. The CCHC assesses, plans, and implements strategies to improve the quality of childcare in our community. This program is administered through Randolph County Public Health.

WAGE\$:

The WAGE\$ program provides salary supplements to early educators who meet specific education, pay, and longevity requirements. This program is designed to reduce staff turnover and support educators working in a field with historically low pay. The supplement amounts are based on the educator's level of education, with the opportunity for higher supplements as they further their education. WAGE\$ payments are made twice a year

Night of the Stars:

Each spring, we host the Night of the Stars event to celebrate the academic achievements of early educators in Randolph County. This event honors those who have earned an Associate, Bachelor's, or Master's degree in the past year. It's a night of inspiration, featuring a guest speaker and a chance for educators to be recognized by their peers for their dedication and hard work.

Through these initiatives, Randolph Partnership for Children is committed to supporting the professional growth of early educators and ensuring high-quality early education for the children in our community.

How Does The Partnership Support the Community?



At Randolph Partnership for Children, our support for families and early education doesn't just help children thrive—it also enables parents and caregivers to be active members of the workforce. By providing essential services like childcare subsidies, early education programs, and professional development for educators, we help families balance their work and home lives, contributing to the overall well-being of our community.

Collaboration Through **Randolph ChAMPS:**

We believe that working together with other organizations is key to meeting the needs of our community. That's why we collaborate through groups like Randolph ChAMPS. This group includes leaders and stakeholders from various sectors, including county, city, and charter schools; Randolph Community College; childcare centers; public libraries; Head Start; and more. By partnering with these diverse organizations, we gain a comprehensive view of the community's needs and can find effective ways to address them without duplicating services. Randolph ChAMPS also involves service partners and parents of young children on Implementation Teams, ensuring that a wide range of voices contribute to the planning and execution of our initiatives.

Community Outreach:

We're committed to reaching out to families across Randolph County. Through our presence at various community events, we educate people about the services we offer and share valuable resources, such as our **Family Resource Guide**. This guide is available both as a physical flipbook and digitally on our website, Randolphkids.org. It connects families to a wide range of resources, from crisis assistance to fun activities for children, ensuring they have the support they need.

By supporting families and collaborating with other community organizations, Randolph Partnership for Children plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life in our county. We're dedicated to continuing our work to meet the evolving needs of our community.

How Can You Support The Partnership's Good Work?



At Randolph Partnership for Children, our mission is to build strong families and prepare children for bright futures by engaging our community to advocate for and invest in their well-being. We believe in creating great beginnings that lead to strong futures, and the community plays a crucial role in helping children succeed.

Volunteer with Us:

There are many ways to give back to our community by volunteering with the Partnership. If our mission resonates with you and you're interested in becoming a community volunteer, we encourage you to complete and return our Volunteer Interest Form. Once completed, we will interview and train you to match you with exciting and fulfilling volunteer opportunities. Whether it's helping at events, supporting our programs, or sharing your skills, your involvement can make a significant difference in the lives of children and families in Randolph County.

Be a Voice for Young Children:

You can also make an impact by becoming an advocate for young children and families. Research shows that more than 85% of brain development happens in the first five years of life. What children experience during this critical period affects their lifelong learning and development. Every child deserves the best start in life, and it's up to us to ensure they get it. As an advocate, you'll help educate the public, policymakers, businesses, and organizations about the importance of early childhood. With the right information, we can influence policy, programs, and funding to support young children and their families.

Invest in Children:

Financial contributions are another powerful way to support our work. Donations to our unrestricted fund allow us to respond quickly to the needs of the community. You can contribute through our Giving Tuesday and Annual Giving Appeal, attend our Gala for the Children Annual Fundraiser, donate via our website, or mail/drop off a check. Every donation, big or small, helps us continue to make a difference in the lives of children and families in Randolph County.

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Please switch me to weekly highlights.

I am no longer interested in this newsletter, please unsubscribe me.



Penciled In

- **Monday, September 9, 12 PM** - NC Pre-K Committee Meeting
- **Tuesday, September 17, 8:15 AM** - Board of Directors Meeting
- **Thursday, September 26, 4 PM** - ChAMPS Meeting



Randolph County Partnership for Children | 349 Sunset Avenue | Asheboro, NC 27203 US

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