For the latest information and updates in North Carolina including testing sites and lists of resources, please visit

https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/

Here at the Alamance Partnership for Children, we are continuing our efforts to help support our children, families, and child care community. We have been able to provide supplies for our families and child care staff in order for them to stay safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please feel free to contact us at 336-513-0063 if you are in need of health and/or cleaning supplies. Friend us on Facebook for daily updates.

https://www.facebook.com/alamancepartnership/

If you leave home, know your Ws!

WEAR
a cloth covering over your nose and mouth.

WAIT
6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.

WASH
your hands or use hand sanitizer.

@NCDHHS #StayStrongNC
These past few months have been very difficult times for all of us. Personally, I have struggled with the unjust murder of George Floyd and the other unseemly acts of violence we have witnessed in our communities. All of these events have pushed me to look at myself and wonder—how can I do better? Because I know I can and I know I should.

When I think of the work we do here at the Partnership, it is important to take a hard look at the racial disparities as a result of long-term systemic racism happening here in our county and its effect on young children. We know for instance, that black male children are expelled in disproportionate numbers from preschool than their peers. This sets up a rather negative trajectory for those children as they try and navigate their way through school and career. The results for these children is bleak - with higher drop-out rates and higher incidences of incarceration.

So we must do better in this aspect as well as others. In the coming months, we will be looking harder at racial disparities amongst our young children and working to do what we can to level the playing field for them. The Partnership will strive, in all its endeavors, to continue to apply an equity lens to our work and include community members in shaping our programming and policies.

Alamance Partnership for Children Diversity Statement

The Alamance Partnership for Children recognizes and honors diversity in race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, culture, age, abilities, gender, sexual orientation, and places where people live. We seek to reflect this diversity in all aspects of our work, including the composition of our board of directors, committees, staff, volunteers and most importantly, the children and families we serve. Further, the Alamance Partnership for Children seeks to be a multicultural and culturally competent organization that works for equity among all people.

We are particularly concerned with the impact of poverty on children. Because children of color are disproportionately affected by poverty, as well as racism, we feel a special obligation to organize and speak out on their behalf.

To effectively meet the needs of children in our community, programs that serve children and families must be culturally competent. Children and their parents should not have to struggle through barriers such as language and culturally biased values or expectations to get the services and supports they need.
We are currently accepting applications for parenting classes, beginning September 2020. Sessions will be offered to parents of children ages 3-5, 6-12, and children with autism and/or language delays. Classes are offered free of charge with dinner and child care included. For more information or to register, contact Tamatha Kohler at (336) 513-0063 or incredibleyears@alamancechildren.org.

Incredible Years is funded through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Smart Start, and the United Way of Alamance County.
Staying connected throughout the many challenges our community faced has been the theme for the Child Care community in these last few months.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Child Care Resource & Referral program has seen the Alamance community come together to honor, feed, and support all licensed child care providers in Alamance County. The Alamance Partnership illuminated the importance of child care providers as essential workers by placing Hero Signs in the lawns of all licensed programs. Supporting the child care professionals in ways that bring everyone joy helps us all stay connected!

Daily phone calls continue to be made to child care program directors and home-based child care owners to offer supportive conversations, hear of the concerns, and collaborate to create ideas for solving the child care community’s problems. Angela Lowery-Taylor, Child Care Specialist, and Sara Kiehn, Early Learning Services Manager, can be reached by calling The Partnership at 336-513-0063.

To bring up-to-date information to child care programs, a weekly e-blast named News & Notes has been sent each Friday to help child care providers. Content includes current health & safety practices, resources for financial grants and awards and strategies for promoting physical and mental health among staff, children, and their families. Our News & Notes also includes ideas for lesson plans, resources for teachers, and tips to share with families. Please be sure we have your correct email address so you can receive News & Notes. Update your address by emailing skiehn@alamancechildren.org.

Child care providers are busy each day with providing responsive care to children and offering quality activities that promote learning experiences. Due to the pandemic, child care providers have become increasingly stretched for time as new regulations and requirements have been given from the NC Department of Health and Human Services. To offer a token of thanks, donated funds were gathered to buy lunches for each caregiver working in a licensed child care program in Alamance County. Additionally, the United Way of Alamance County raised funds to provide each child care provider with a restaurant gift card. Thanks United Way!

Traditionally, April is the month that our nation celebrates The Week of the Young Child and this year was no exception! We appreciate our early learning professional community and challenged caregivers to submit photos of themselves highlighting the joy they feel as they head to work. A huge thank you to De’Aundre’ Barnes, recent graduate from North Carolina Central University, for creating the provider appreciation video from the many photos we received. To access the video, please contact our Child Care Specialist, Angela Lowery-Taylor at alowery-taylor@alamancechildren.org.
Alamance county child care providers continue to demonstrate their commitment to furthering their education. Congratulations to Yvette Garner, Tiffany Grace Pointer, and Priscilla Rowell, three recent college graduates and staff members of Excel Christian Academy. These dedicated professionals note the support they received from their director, Davina Woods, as a continual encouraging force.

Beginning Visions Child Development Center’s teacher, Beth Lamb, also had the support of her director, Valerie Morris, along her road to graduation. Beth echoes other teachers as they credit the T.E.A.C.H. program as the financial pathway to success in obtaining her college education. Congratulations Beth for pressing on and reaching your educational goals! For information on how you can apply for T.E.A.C.H., contact Sara Kiehn. Continued efforts to keep the child care community professionally connected are ongoing as we increase the numbers of child care directors attending our virtual director’s roundtable each month.

The virtual gatherings offer opportunities for child care directors to see and hear one another sharing stories that are unique to the child care profession. In July, our roundtable will host Jaleesa Bartley-Maye, published children’s book author. We will hear an excerpt from her book and have time to ask questions about the writing process. To join our next roundtable please contact Sara Kiehn at skiehn@alamancechildren.org.
Currently the Alamance Partnership for Children offers virtual Kaleidoscope playgroups every Wednesday at 10:30am. Playgroups include planned activities, story time, and a song. Future playgroups will include making moon sand, freeze dance, and follow the leader. Playgroups are free to all caregivers with children birth to five in Alamance County. Caregivers will need to RSVP for the Zoom link each week. For more information or to RSVP for a playgroup, caregivers can email Maria Nunn at mnunn@alamancechildren.org.

NC Pre-Kindergarten

**It’s Time to Apply for Pre-K**

Will your child be four years old by August 31st? Applications are still being accepted.

You can get an application by:

- Visiting our website: www.alamancechildren.org/nc-pre-k
- Calling us at 336-513-0063
- Or find us on Facebook

Alamance Partnership for Children
2322 River Road
Burlington, NC 27217

**ES MOMENTO DE INSCRIBIRSE PARA PRE-K**

Tu niño tendrá cuatro años para Agosto 31?

Las inscripciones se aceptarán todavía.

Tu puedes obtener tu inscripción:

- Visitiando nuestra página web: www.alamancechildren.org/nc-pre-k
- Llamanol al: 336-513-0063
  o visitándonos en Facebook

Alamance Partnership for Children
2322 River Road
Burlington, NC 27217

*Algunos Restricciones de Eligibilidad APLICAN*
Outdoor Learning Program Updates

• COVID-19 hasn’t stopped us from moving forward with creating Outdoor Learning Environments at a few of our NC-PreK sites in Alamance County. Childcare Network #78b has an even more beautiful outdoor space for the children to explore throughout the day. They now have a mud kitchen, stage, a variety of plants and trees, a dirt digging area, and a raised vegetable garden all of which add value and multiple open-ended play and learning opportunities for young children.

• **GRANT OPPORTUNITY!** We will begin accepting applications for grant funding to support the creation of Outdoor Learning Environments at child care centers in Alamance County soon. More information will be posted on our website in the coming months.

• Since COVID-19, we have offered our families Virtual Outdoor Learning Playgroups and shared resources about the importance of spending time outdoors connecting with nature. We made homemade bubble solution at our homes and even created our own bubble wands out of recycled materials. We took nature walks together virtually and explored our backyards and neighborhoods for evidence of wildlife.

• Getting active in nature has never been more important than it is now! Some benefits of being outdoors in nature include reduced stress levels, increased vitamin D levels, improved attention functioning, and reduced sickness rates.

See below for some fun outdoor activities you can do at home:

Creating a Terrarium [https://naturalearning.org/terrarium/](https://naturalearning.org/terrarium/)


Just remember, there are many benefits of being outdoors in nature, especially now. So go outside and start exploring!

For more information about our Outdoor Learning Program, please contact Kim Mietus, Outdoor Learning Specialist, at kmietus@alamancechildren.org, or call 336-513-0063 ext. 107.
Early Childhood Literacy

**Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library Book Program**

Covid-19 has not stopped Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. Over 140 Million books have been distributed as of June 2020. These monthly books are mailed to all young children in North Carolina at no cost to families.

The Dolly Parton Foundation has these suggestions for using the books your children are receiving:

**Birth To Two Years Old**

*Read aloud 15 minutes each day!*

Reading to your child from birth will help you bond with your baby and establish an important foundation for future learning. The earlier you start, the better the results! Read every day. Make reading a regular event in your home. Read books multiple times. This reinforces language development and encourages children to participate in the reading activity.

*Reading = snuggling!*

Read for short periods with your child on your lap or next to you. Being close to you is likely as important as the reading.

*Keep books handy!*

Set up a space to keep your child’s books where they will be accessible.

*Be flexible!*

Take a break if your child is unhappy or fussy. Read multiple times per day for short periods rather than one longer period if that works better.

**Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library - Parent Resources**

[https://imaginationlibrary.com/news-resources/parent-resources/](https://imaginationlibrary.com/news-resources/parent-resources/)

**Reach Out and Read**

The American Academy of Pediatrics states that early literacy education is an essential component of primary pediatric care and endorses Reach Out and Read early literacy and early learning activities for all patients, starting from birth.

Alamance County Pediatric offices have continued distributing books at well-child visits six months to five years during the pandemic.

Ask your child’s pediatrician if these books are part of their well-child pediatric care.

Visit [www.reachoutandread.org](http://www.reachoutandread.org) for these caregiver resources: Tackling Difficult Conversations, Expanding Diversity in your Family Library, Keeping Grandparents Connected, Anxiety & Stress Relief, Creating New Routines, and Health, Wellness & Self-Care.

**Reach Out and Read - Parent Resources**

[https://reachoutandread.org/what-we-do/resources-2/](https://reachoutandread.org/what-we-do/resources-2/)

To register your child for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library free monthly books or learn more about Reach Out and Read, visit [www.alamancechildren.org](http://www.alamancechildren.org) or contact Penny Scott, Literacy Specialist at [pscott@alamancechildren.org](mailto:pscott@alamancechildren.org)
With the beginning of a worldwide pandemic back in March, who would have ever thought we would be navigating through life as we are now? From school closings, parents working from home, and the outside world literally closing, our life as we once knew it has endured some drastic changes. The Parents as Teachers program curriculum is typically home-based, but we worked some magic and have transitioned our home visits and group meetings. We have introduced our program to the virtual world. Of course, we miss visiting with the families enrolled in their homes, but unfortunately it is not safe for us to do that now. But we are staying connected through virtual visits and group meetings to ensure learning is still happening and that we are there when our families need us most. Take a look at some of the pictures taken during virtual visits with our parent educators.

**Meet our newest team member—Jenny Whitley**

Jenny joins the Partnership as the new NC Pre-Kindergarten Coordinator. She attended UNC-Greensboro for both her undergrad in psychology and graduate degree in Child Development and Family Studies. She also received a graduate degree in business administration from DeVry University. She has spent her entire career working with young children birth to five. Jenny was a childcare director early on in her career and has spent the past 18 years working with Smart Start as an administrator for the North Carolina Pre-K programs.

She has a son and a daughter and a granddaughter who just completed kindergarten. Jenny also has a ‘grand-doodle’ named Gus who sometimes visits the Partnership office. Jenny tells us, “I am so thrilled to join the team at the Alamance Partnership for Children and I look forward to serving the Alamance early childhood community.”
Our Staff

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2019-2020 Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
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Heidi Hollingsworth
Katrina Jackson
Christy McCauley

Dejuana Warren
Susana Goldman
Rick Hurtado

Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from noon—1:30 p.m. at the Partnership office, 2322 River Road, Burlington, NC 27217.

If you wish to attend, please call (336) 513-0063.