



Early Childhood Connections

KEYNOTE PRESENTER



Keith Pentz, National Education Advisor for Kaplan Early Learning Company

SAVE THE DATE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019
6th ANNUAL EARLY EDUCATION SUMMIT
First Presbyterian Church
Burlington
11:30 AM-1:30 PM
Lunch will be provided



Come Join Us in the Outdoor Learning Environment for Playgroups Open to Children Birth to Five and their Caregivers

Mondays 10:30am-12:00pm

Wednesdays 3:30pm-5:00pm

Playgroups are scheduled in the Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) all year long. Let's take advantage of our southern climate here in NC, with very few days of severe weather. Playgroups are designed to let children take the lead in exploring what interests them. The changes in our OLE at the Alamance Partnership for Children provide endless possibilities for learning through play. As we transition from fall into winter, caregivers are encouraged to spend as much time outside as they can. Autumn is a time for children and adults to share natural

wonders through conversations that develop.

The OLE also offers hands-on trainings to inspire child care providers with ideas for implementing low cost changes at their own centers. Feel free to contact the Outdoor Learning Environment Specialist to learn more. Please see the training calendar for our upcoming trainings.

Beth Lehman 336-513-0063 ext. 107

blehman@alamancechildren.org



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - CARRIE THEALL



As many know, the Alamance Partnership for children is governed by a Board of Directors. This group is made up of folks from the local community who share in the mission and vision of the Partnership. We strive to maintain diversity with the Board composition and routinely recruit from the business, governmental, and service related communities. Our Board members volunteer their time with monthly meetings, committee work, advocacy, and participation in Partnership events throughout Alamance County. The Partnership staff couldn't accomplish their work without the support and dedication of the Board.

Most recently, our Board Chair, Ron Waters, received a political appointment to serve on the North Carolina Partnership for Children Board of Directors. We feel fortunate that Mr. Waters will be bringing the perspective of the local partnerships to the state level.

I am happy to welcome three new members to our Board.

Dejuana Warren works at Alamance Regional Medical Center and is a parent who is an active community advocate for children and families. Dr. Heidi Hollingsworth comes to us from Elon University where she is an Associate Professor of Education and the Program Coordinator for Early Childhood. Our third new member is Dr. Robin Finberg from the Alamance-Burlington School System. She is the Executive Director of K-12 Curriculum. We are thrilled to have three such well-qualified new members and look forward to all they can bring to the Partnership.

So I would like to send out a big thanks to all of our amazing Board members for all they do for families and children in our community.



Dr. Kristen Moffitt, Vice Chair

Meet Our New Staff



Courtnie Carter is our newest Parents as Teachers Educator. She is a graduate of Williams High School, so Alamance County is near and dear to her heart. She received her BA in Communications with a Minor in Psychology from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her most fulfilling jobs in her career have always been working with families. Courtnie comes to us with experience as a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor with the WIC program and as the coordinator and co-facilitator for the Centering Pregnancy Program.

In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her 9-year-old son and playing volleyball.

"I am excited to be a part of the team here at the Partnership and I am looking forward to building relationships throughout the community."

Toni Gross is our new Child Care Services Coordinator here at the Alamance Partnership for Children. She has worked in the education field since 1999. Toni obtained her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and then continued to receive a Master of Education in Early Childhood. Continuing to broaden her knowledge of the education field, she is certified in Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K CLASS, Milestones training, and various other areas that have made her knowledge of early childhood useful to the child care centers.

As an educator, Toni has worked in many roles- Head Start teacher, elementary school teacher, child care director, TA specialist, and education trainer. She feels confident her experience and education will benefit the Alamance County child care community.

Toni is excited to have the opportunity to work with the staff and children at our local child care centers and family child care homes as our Child Care Service Coordinator.



Welcome to Ida Yow, our new Executive Assistant/Office Manager here at the Partnership. She comes to us with an extensive background in human resources, bookkeeping, and office management. "I love the opportunity of working with the Partnership and I believe in the mission statement, to help every young child grow, learn, and thrive. I feel honored to be working for such a great goal."



No Hurricane Can Slow Us Down

Our Incredible Years Group Sessions started Monday, September 10th with our longstanding partner, Eastlawn Elementary for parents of children ages 6 to 12. Our Incredible Years facilitators and child care providers jumped in to action like the super heroes they all are.

We started our second year partnering with South Graham Elementary on Tuesday, September 11th for parents of children ages 3 to 5. Parents started to make connections the minute they walked in the door and the delicious food from Delancey's was a hit with everyone.

We did postpone our first night at LifeSpan due to the unknowns about the weather, but that gave us time to sign up more parents of children with autism or language delays. We took this blessing in disguise and started with a full house Thursday, September 20th. Thank you, LifeSpan for helping us make last minute adjustments to the schedule.

Incredible Years is off to another great start and we look forward to seeing our families flourish this Fall!



Eastlawn Elementary was one of the sites that was selected to receive funding for an Outdoor Learning Environment last spring. Now that school is back in session, the students are enjoying using this natural space. Lead NC Pre-K teacher, Betsy Baranik, shared how her students are learning through outdoor play. "Our Outdoor Learning Environment has been an incredible addition to Eastlawn Elementary Pre-K program. The children have been learning and growing daily through exploration and play. We have planted lavender, pulled weeds, rode tricycles, made

mud pies, and balanced our bodies on stumps and logs. We had the opportunity to raise and release 10 monarch butterflies into our butterfly bush. The children are beginning to sing and dance on our outdoor stage and we have seen a lot of construction in



our designated digging area. We are learning through what nature, imagination, and an intentional outdoor learning space are providing for our students."

NC Pre-K applications are still being accepted for the 2018-19 school year. Please contact Kristie Coffey at (336) 513-0063 ext. 105 or



Our Kaleidoscope Play and Learn Group has just celebrated our One Year Anniversary. Thank you, City Gate Dream Center for use of your awesome facility. We moved there this summer to have more space and it has worked out nicely for parents, caregivers, and staff.

The children are hard at play or what we call work for pre-schooler. They are growing up before our very eyes and story time might be just as fun for the parents and staff as it is for the children.

Our parents are stepping up in a big way and we loved having Hank's dad lead us in song as we learned a little bit about our A-B-C's. Can you tell which one is Hank by the proud smile?

Please join us for Kaleidoscope Play and Learn Group each Wednesday at 10:30 am. All caregivers and children, ages birth to five, are welcomed to join us at City Gate Dream Center, located at 1423 N. Church Street in Burlington.

Here is a Look at our Fall Schedule of Activities:

October 3rd-Falling Leaves (Seasons of the Year)

October 10th-Express Yourself (Feelings)

October 17th-Bright Smiles (A visit from the Tooth Fairy)

October 24th-A Color Scavenger Hunt

October 31st-Monsters aren't all scary!

November 7th- Sharing is fun!

November 14th- I can write my name...with Shaving Cream

November 28th-Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

December 5th- Glitter Hands (Good Hygiene)

December 12th -Mixing It Up (Creativity)

December 19th-Fire Safety...at the Fire Station



Looking for child care? Call Referral Central toll free at 855-327-5933

Training Calendar

Contact – 336-513-0063 or Info@alamancechildren.org

Workshop	Date	Time	Trainer	Cost	Credits
Challenging Behaviors: Causes, Prevention Intervention Strategies.	10-6-18	8:00am-2:00pm	Nicole Randall	\$25	0.5
FLIP IT—(Intervention Strategies for Addressing Challenging Behaviors	10-9-18 & 10-11-18	6:00-8:30pm	Nicole Randall	\$25	0.5
Outdoor Learning Environments for Infants	10-23-18	6:00-8:00pm	Beth Lehman	\$5	2
Moving in the Outdoor Learning Environment	11-1-18	6:00-8:00pm	Beth Lehman	\$5	2
Playground Safety	12-8-2018	9:00am-1:00pm	Beth Lehman	\$5	4

Unless otherwise noted, all trainings will be held at the Alamance Partnership for Children office at 2322 River Road, Burlington 27215.

Alamance Partnership for Children

MISSION: To help every child grow, learn, and thrive

Our Board of Directors

Board Chair—Ron Waters
 Vice Chair—Kristen Moffitt
 Treasurer—Rachel Blunk
 Secretary—Jeffrey Smythe

Brittany Graybeal	Christy McCawley
Dejuana Warren	Robin Finberg
Heidi Hollingsworth	Helena Rodgers
Katrina Jackson	Kelly Mendenhall
Lindsay Conrad	Lisa Lippert
Niki Ratliff	

Board Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at noon. These meetings are open to the public. Should you have an interest in attending, please contact the Partnership at 336.513.0063.

Our Staff

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 Courtnie Carter-Parents as Teachers Educator-
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Contact us:

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Website: www.alamancechildren.org

Resources for Young Children

Take a StoryWalk® through the Outdoor Learning Environment

The Gruffalo's Child by [Julia Donaldson](#) is the Alamance Partnership for Children's StoryWalk® book for fall. This book is the sequel to *The Gruffalo*, a StoryWalk® previously displayed at APC.

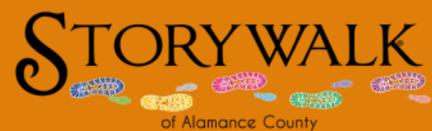
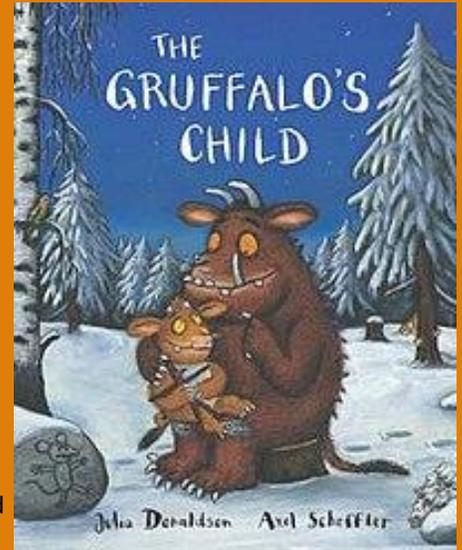
The story follows the Gruffalo's child (a daughter) who, despite her father's warning, sets off into the "deep dark wood" to find the "big bad mouse", the only thing her father fears.

Come enjoy the "brains over brawn" theme, the creatures, and the same easy flowing rhyme scheme enjoyed in *The Gruffalo*.

Created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, StoryWalks® combine physical activity with literacy for families to enjoy being outdoors together.

Laminated pages from a children's picture book are installed along an outdoor path and attached to a special display post. As you stroll, signs along the way offer information about early literacy and active reading techniques and tips. Books are changed every three to four months.

Add reading to your family's outdoor time with StoryWalks® at APC, North Park Walking Track, Beth Schmidt Park in Elon, and the newly-opened StoryWalk® at the Graham Middle School walking track.



Tips for Reading Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Books with Your Baby

Alamance Partnership for Children (APC) helps provide books to the young children of Alamance County, from birth to their fifth birthday, through the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL). The goal is to encourage parents to read to their children daily in the early years of life and to help foster a love of books and reading. APC currently serves over 5,000 children with monthly books at no cost to families.

Use your DPIL books to foster a love of books and reading with your baby right from the start :

- **Snuggle up with a book**—feeling safe and secure with you builds your baby's confidence and love of reading.
- **Choose baby-friendly books**—cloth, soft plastic, or board books are easier for baby to handle. Bright colors and high-contrast illustrations will get their attention.
- **Keep books where baby can reach them**—make them as available as toys.
- **Talk with your baby**—describe everything! Ask questions. Encourage their early coos and gurgles of "communication" as practice toward speech.
- **Sing, Read, Repeat**—Read favorite stories and sing favorite songs over and over again to strengthen language development and positive feelings about reading.
- **"Read" Your Baby**— Pay attention to baby's reaction. If baby isn't enjoying the story, try another book or another time.



Visit the [Partnership's website](#) to register your child for DPIL. You may also contact Penny Scott, Literacy Specialist, for more information about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at 336.513.0063 or pscott@alamancechildren.org