

# CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS

FALL 2023



*We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Mrs. Davina Boldin-Woods, our speaker for the Early Educators Banquet*



## Early Educators Banquet

On September 9, 2023, Alamance Partnership for Children celebrated the Early Educators with a banquet. They were recognized for all their hard work and accomplishments throughout the year such as: star-rating increases, years of service in early childhood, LENA certification and completion of Outdoor Learning Environments. Our keynote speaker was Davina Boldin-Woods, director of Child Development Center First Presbyterian Church. She motivated us to advocate for what is important. “Your voice matters. We are not babysitters. We are educators.” Thank you to all our sponsors and donors that helped to make this evening a success.

# From the Desk of the Executive Director, Cass Wolfe

Welcome to the Alamance Partnership for Children's fall newsletter. It is hard to believe but on November 1st, I will have been at the Partnership for a full year. It has been a wonderful year where I have learned a tremendous amount and have worked with the fabulous Partnership team to deliver quality services to our many constituents, children, parents, early educators, and colleagues interested in the needs of children birth to five.

In the spring I spoke to hope and among my remarks, I referenced the NC legislative session. While there were some "wins" for children and families, most notably the expansion of Medicaid, child care programs and services did not receive the funding increases that many of us hoped for. A few bright spots in addition to Medicaid include funding to pilot a Tri-Share child care delivery model, \$1.5 million (non-recurring) for Dolly Parton Imagination Library for each of the next two years, and use of remaining ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to maintain early educator compensation grants through June 2024. These are a start.

However, to maintain a strong, vibrant early care and education system in North Carolina, more work must be done. Some community conversations have begun and all of us that care about the importance of programs and services that not only foster young children's growth and development, but enable them to thrive, must continue to advocate on their behalf. Children need our voices, our ideas, and our work to create change. If you are interested in joining us and others to advocate for young children, please let me know.

Together we can make an impact.

With this issue, I also invite you to continue learning about our work at the Partnership. While this newsletter only captures a snapshot of our days, we are busy. Enjoy reading about a wonderful dinner honoring our hard-working early childhood educators; photographs of several community events we attended; the fun awaiting young children in our Outdoor Learning Environment; and how to enroll in our programs. We hope to see you in one of our groups soon. And please take the time to enjoy the young children in your life today.

Best wishes,  
Cass Wolfe





# Outdoor Learning Environment

The OLE is open 7 days a week and free for the whole community to use.

Undoubtedly, autumn offers the perfect opportunity to visit nearby farms and partake in classic seasonal pastimes like picking apples and pumpkins, enjoying hayrides, and navigating through corn mazes. Beyond the fun, children can also acquire valuable insights about the crops from the welcoming local farmers. It presents an excellent chance to discover the details of farming and gain a firsthand understanding of the origins of our food.

*During a conversation with a group of Elon University students at the OLE, we delved into the significant topic matter of Children and the Natural World, exploring its implications and potential benefits for young individuals. Our conversation proved insightful and thought-provoking, shedding light on the importance of fostering a deep connection between children and the environment. The students are creating research plans to investigate the concept of a "Good Childhood."*

During the OLE Field Trip, the children at Beginning Visions Child Care had a special visitor - a native box turtle!

Did you know that box turtles have a unique ability to completely close up their shells like a box? They are typically brown and have either a yellow or orange pattern on their shells. They are diurnal creatures, meaning they are active during the daytime. Their days are spent foraging and eating, and sometimes mating. While box turtles are known for their friendly personality, they can bite if they feel threatened and want to defend themselves.



Margaret McNamara and G. Brian Karas' book "How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?" follows Mr. Tiffin's class as they try to determine how many seeds are in three pumpkins of varying sizes. The students count the seeds by twos, fives, and tens to determine which pumpkin has the most seeds. The book is a great tool for introducing children to estimation and prediction. It may even inspire them to make their own guesses!





# Quality Child Care

## Upcoming Trainings

11/14/2023

6:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Alamance Partnership for Children

Alamance County Providers ONLY! Using Puppets to Increase Language and Communication Skills

11/15/2023

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Alamance Partnership for Children

Alamance County Providers ONLY! Sign Language Basics for Early Childhood

11/16/2023

6:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Alamance Partnership for Children

Alamance County Providers ONLY! Using Affordable Loose Parts in Outdoor Learning Environments

12/20/2023

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Alamance Partnership for Children

Alamance County Providers ONLY! Understanding and Intervening in Bullying Behavior



**LENA**  
Building brains through early talk

Are you eager to enhance your interactions with children, expand their vocabulary, and, most importantly, nurture enduring connections in your classroom? If your answer is yes, then the Language Environment Analysis (LENA) program is precisely what you need. Using LENA is as simple as outfitting a child with a vest and pressing the power button on the pedometer, taking just a few minutes and requiring no ongoing maintenance. It's an enjoyable experience that empowers your growth as an educator and allows you to accrue professional development hours. To learn more, please reach out to Angela Lowery Taylor, Child Care Services Manager, at [alowery-taylor@alamancechildren.org](mailto:alowery-taylor@alamancechildren.org) or call 336.513.0063 ext. 120."





# NC Pre-K



## Congratulations

### NC Pre-K's school year is underway!

NC Pre-K is currently enrolled at 94.8% for the 2023-2024 school year.

Remaining available spaces are being offered to families currently on our waitlist.

Over 200 children are currently on our waiting list.

### Money is on the way for NC Pre-K!

North Carolina Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper announced Sept. 13 he would be releasing \$8 million in federal funding to support the state's Pre-K program. The money will come from the federal Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) funds that have reverted to the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund, per the governor's press release. Each of the 2,098 classrooms across the state will receive around \$3,860. The money is a "one-time" special allocation to upgrade classroom materials, toys, supplies, playground equipment, supplemental curriculum materials, ongoing facility maintenance needs, mental health support for children and staff, professional development for staff, and other needs.

### "Local Resident Janay Powell Graduates from Leadership Development Program"

**RALEIGH, NC—** Janay Powell of Alamance Partnership for Children recently graduated from the NC Rural Center's Homegrown Leaders program, a three-day regional leadership and economic development program that develops and supports highly motivated leaders committed to regional collaboration."

*"Homegrown Leaders Training was by far the best training I have ever attended! The trainers were very engaging and kept the training entertaining. I learned many great skills to bring back to my community. Because of Homegrown Leaders, I feel empowered and ready to advocate for the children and families of Alamance County!" -Janay Powell*



[Read more here](#)



NC Pre-K Family Support Specialist, Carina Hoover, visiting Kool Kidz Pre-K for Dial 4 screenings



# Parents As Teachers



All children's needs are unique and all deserve the best possible start in life. Your child was born ready to learn.

## ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

### Benefits of our FREE Parents as Teachers program:

- We are a no cost family program serving Alamance County families throughout pregnancy until the age of 5.
- We support parents increasing their knowledge of their child's development.
- We connect parents with other families, resources in our community, and free activities for their children.
- We help parents understand their children's learning process to be ready for Pre-K or kindergarten.

### FUN FAMILY FALL ACTIVITIES:

- Play with your children outdoors by observing the colorful leaves and feeling their texture.
- Create a fun collage with leaves and identifying fall colors.
- Bake a delicious pumpkin or apple pie together or cookies!
- Enjoy a family walk enjoying the view and the fresh weather.
- Explore the outdoors together during a family walk.

### UPCOMING GROUP MEETINGS:

November 28 - Traditions

December 16 - Holiday Celebration

We are enormously grateful to the Rotary Club of Alamance for their September diaper drive on behalf of the families at the Alamance Partnership for Children. The club collected 6,202 diapers and over 6,000 wipes! Helping reach that goal was the Partnership's own board members who contributed over 1,000 of the total collected diapers and wipes.



## September Group Zumba Class



Sandra Vanover PAT Manager [svanover@alamancechildren.org](mailto:svanover@alamancechildren.org)  
Lakisha Rodgers PAT Educator [lrodgers@alamancechildren.org](mailto:lrodgers@alamancechildren.org)  
Induberit Rosa PAT Educator [irosa@alamancechildren.org](mailto:irosa@alamancechildren.org)

# Incredible Years



**The  
Incredible  
Years®**

The Incredible Years classes are designed for parents and caregivers of children ages 3-12. We provide weekly classes, led by trained Incredible Years Facilitators. Topics include monitoring your child(ren), positive discipline, and boosting your child's confidence.

## **Incredible Years®**

**NATIONALLY 83% OF**

parents demonstrated an increase in appropriate discipline, increased positive parenting skills, and their ability to set clear expectations

Fall IY classes have begun!

The parents are very excited. They can't wait to learn new skills that will help them be better parents. They want to learn how to talk to their children, handle their behavior, and be closer to them. They're hopeful that they'll create a happier, more peaceful family. They're looking forward to seeing positive changes in how their children behave. The Incredible Years program isn't just a place to learn; it's also a supportive community that's making them even more excited about how this experience can make a big difference in their lives.

Information for Spring classes will be released in December. We will host a class for Spanish speakers in the spring.



All participants who complete 11 of 14 classes will receive a \$50 incentive.



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



United Way  
of Alamance County



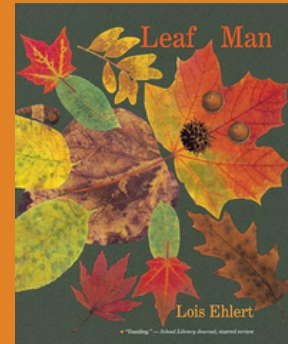
# Literacy

sign up for free book for your child birth to five.

## TOP TIPS



- Reading to babies is essential for brain development and language skills.
- Make reading a daily routine, with special times for it.
- Use board and cloth books for infants.
- Engage toddlers by taking turns and asking questions.
- Repeat their favorite books to reinforce learning. Highlight similar words for preschoolers and count objects for early math skills.
- Encourage them to tell the story and read with enthusiasm.
- Set an example by reading yourself.
- Keep reading regularly to develop a love for books.
- Start early and read often.



Michelle's pick for Fall

This book ignites your child's imagination like no other. As they delve into the pages, they'll uncover hidden images within the leaves and see the beauty of autumn in a fresh light. Reading this book together will introduce your child to a spectrum of rich colors and expand their vocabulary. Afterward, consider taking a leisurely autumn stroll, collecting leaves along the way, and crafting your very own 'Leaf Man.'

Leaf Man  
Lois Ehlert

Register your child for free books!

Registration is easy:

\*Visit: [www.AlamanceChildren.org](http://www.AlamanceChildren.org)

\*Call: 336.513.0063

\*Email: [mhowe@AlamanceChildren.org](mailto:mhowe@AlamanceChildren.org)

\*Scan: QR Code for registration form



## December's Storytime



## September's Storytime with Lizzie Cheek of Young Musicians of Alamance



# Kaleidoscope Play and Learn



Kaleidoscope Play & Learn (KPL) is a free weekly facilitated parent and child playgroup offered to caregivers with children birth to five years old. Playgroups offer caregivers a space to connect with one another and build community.



Come learn and play with your child weekly through:

- Free Play
- Story Telling and Reading
- Creating Arts and Crafts
- And much more!

This is a free program and snacks will be provided!

## CrossRoads

1206 Vaughn Rd,  
Burlington, NC 27217

Tuesdays  
10:00 AM- 11:30 AM

## Outdoor Learning Environment

2322 River Rd.  
Burlington NC, 27217

Wednesdays  
10:30 AM- 12:00 PM  
**RSVP REQUIRED**  
(Max 25 Children)



Contact: Di'Quasia Champ

336-513-0063 (ext. 110) or

dchamp@alamancechildren.org



During each session, parents and children will read books and complete activities that focus on the topic for the month.

## Fall Curriculum:

- October - Mental Health
- November - Culture
- December - Advocacy

## The holiday season is approaching. With holidays can come stress. Self-Care Tips for a Nourishing Holiday Season

Take one minute to focus on your breathing.  
Take another route to work.  
Write out your thoughts.  
Make a small connection with a stranger.  
Be still for two minutes.  
Stretch.  
Do a mini declutter.  
Unplug for an hour.  
Goof off for a bit.  
Ask for help.

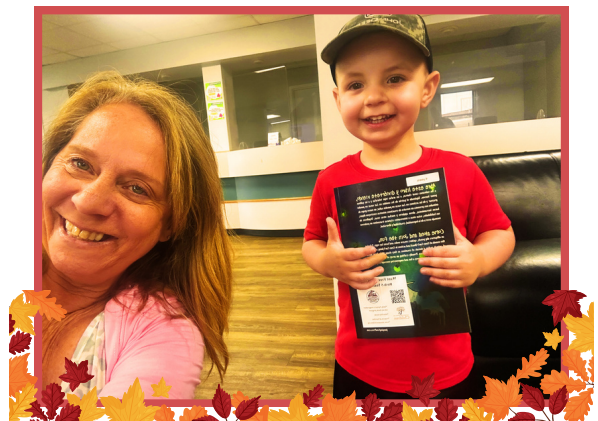
Pre-registration is required for Wednesdays  
**ONLY** through EventBrite.





# Community Engagement

The Partnership is deeply rooted in the community, consistently participating in various community-wide events and actively engaging with local residents to share valuable resources and send each child home with a book.



If you have an event you would like us to attend, please contact Michelle Howe at [mhowe@alamancechildren.org](mailto:mhowe@alamancechildren.org) or 336.513.0063



# Community Awareness

Nothing says fall like a visit to the pumpkin patch!

If you're looking for a local place, please see the suggestions below:

**Whitaker Farms**

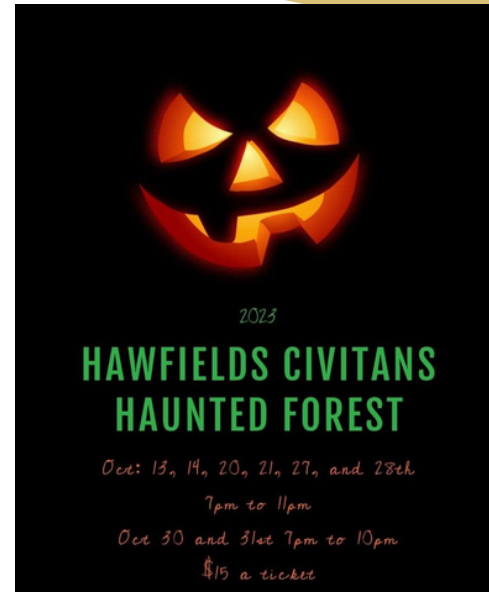
**2991 Providence Ch. Rd**

**Climax, NC**

**J. Razz & Tazz Farm Fall Fun**

**466 Peeden Dr**

**Gibsonville, NC**



Holidays can be a time of joy and celebration for many, but for some families, they bring about a unique set of challenges, particularly in the realm of food insecurity. During these special occasions, when traditions often revolve around shared meals and abundant feasts, the harsh reality of not having enough to eat can be particularly stark. For these families, the pressure to provide a festive spread can be overwhelming, and the inability to do so can magnify feelings of inadequacy and exclusion.

The holiday season serves as a poignant reminder of the disparities that exist in access to basic necessities, highlighting the importance of addressing food insecurity as a crucial aspect of supporting vulnerable communities year-round.

## Local Food Pantries

**Grace and Peace Tabernacle**  
**Contact Information**  
**600 East Washington Street**  
**Mebane, NC - 27302**  
**Phone: 919-563-0873**

**The Healing Station**  
**Contact Information**  
**802 Chapel Hill Rd**  
**Burlington, NC - 27215**  
**Phone: (336) 350-9045**



# Our Staff

## Contact us:



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