

Child Care Connections

11 Years of Serving Alamance County's Children

How Does Child Care Benefit Our Economy?

Families with younger children rate high-quality child care and after-school care as extremely important. Parents want to make sure their kids are in nurturing, safe, healthy environments. For those without children, high-quality child care might not seem that important. However, high-quality child care is crucial, both in terms of educating our future workforce and in terms of economic prosperity today. Supporting high-quality child care is a significant part of keeping Alamance County's economy strong.

In Alamance County alone:

- Nearly 3,000 children are enrolled in licensed, regulated child care.
- There are currently 107 licensed, regulated child care providers (as of May 2010).

- In 2008-2009, nearly 300 families received referrals to high-quality child care, for both full-time and after school care.
- The child care industry generates more than \$21 million in gross revenue and employs nearly 500 taxpayers. The average child care worker earns less than \$10 per hour.

Statewide, the child care industry has a significant impact on the economy. It employs more than 47,000 taxpayers, and these people pay more than \$140 million in taxes. One in ten workers has a child under the age of six, and together, these people earn approximately \$14 billion every year. Of all North Carolina families, 56% have children in child care,

and 70% of these are single-parent families.

So child care is a significant contributor to our economy. But what does high-quality child care mean other than dollars generated? How is high-quality child care affecting the Alamance County community long-term?

Businesses that operate in communities with high-quality child care are more successful on many levels. For example, unscheduled absences are reduced when children are in quality care. Unscheduled absences cost small businesses, on average, \$600,000 per year and large businesses see costs of more than \$3 million. Employees are also more likely to stay at a job when their children are in high-quality care. This

Alamance Partnership for Children Has Moved!

We are now located in historic Glencoe Mill Village. Visit us!

From Mebane or Graham:

1. Take interstate I-40/I-85 to exit 147 (Highway 87- Graham)
2. Follow 87N to Highway 62. Downtown Burlington will be on your left.
3. Turn right on 62 (Church Street)
4. Highway 62 takes a 90-degree left-hand turn at Holt Street, a few blocks after the railroad underpass at Webb Avenue. Turn left on Holt.
5. Continue on 62 until cross the Haw River.
6. Take the very first left after the river, onto River Road.
7. Glencoe Mill is the first large building on the left-hand side of the road.
8. 2322 River Road is the next building.

From Elon or Burlington:

1. Take interstate I-40/I-85 to exit 143 (Highway 62- Alamance)
2. Turn north on 62.
3. Continue on 62. You will pass through the west side of downtown Burlington.
4. Follow directions from above starting at number 4.

Finding Quality Child and After School Care

Finding quality child care is a challenge for many parents in Alamance County. Between commitments for work, school, and after school activities, who has time to do in-depth research on quality child care?

And even if parents have the time to research child care,

they often wonder what to look for when visiting facilities and what questions to ask providers.

There are many different types of childcare providers. These include:

- Center-Based Programs

- Licensed Family Child Care Homes
- Religious Sponsored Child Care Facilities (GS 110-106)
- Part-Day Preschools/ Mother's Morning Out Programs
- Head Start

Upcoming Events with Alamance Partnership for Children

Burlington Royals Game July 11

Carousel Festival, City Park September 18 from 10-6 & Sept 19 from 1-6

Economic Impact (cont'd from Page 1)

saves costs associated with having to rehire or retrain people, which costs approximately 150% of the position's salary.

High-quality child care helps ensure the strong development of a future workforce. Research indicates that children in high-quality care are more likely to have higher math and language scores once they enter school. In addition, they are more likely to attend college and have a highly-skilled job. They are less likely to be enrolled in special-education services once they enter school. They are also much less likely to utilize the public welfare system and be part of the court system.

Children who are exposed to loving, nurturing environments at a young age are more likely to grow into adults who are productive members of society.

Positive interactions with caregivers help children learn how to get along with others, and how to be part of a community.

Some more facts about child care:

In North Carolina, it costs less to pay a year of tuition at a public university than to pay for a year's worth of quality child care for an infant.

The average annual cost for high-quality, full-time child care for an infant is \$7,800. The average annual tuition at a public, four-year college in NC is \$4,320.

In North Carolina, the median family income for a single parent is \$19,006.

The cost of child care for the infant child of a single parent is

\$7,800. That is 41% of the \$19,006 earned annually.

The cost of child care for the four-year-old child of a single parent is \$6,756. That is 35.5% of the \$19,006 earned annually.

A single-parent family with two children who require care will spend nearly \$14,000 on child care per year. This can be more than 70% of that family's income.

All of the information and these statistics support one thing: high quality child care is important to our economy today. But it has an impact that is even more significant. Today's children are tomorrow's Alamance County business leaders, health care professionals, parents, police officers, teachers and taxpayers. Let's give them the smartest start possible.

Find High-Quality Child Care (cont'd from Page 1)

- Public Pre-Kindergarten
- More-At-Four
- Before and After School/Holiday Care
- Summer Day Camps
- In-Home/Nanny/Au Pair Care

Childcare centers are licensed by the North Carolina Division of Child Development. They are rated on the NC Star Rated License system. Facilities can have anywhere from one to five stars. Every program that meets North Carolina's minimum licensing standards for child care receives one star. Programs that choose to voluntarily meet higher standards can apply for a two to five star license.

Religious-sponsored child care facilities are

exempt from licensure. The persons running those facilities are able to choose whether to apply for a star rating.

The number of choices and the star rating system can be overwhelming for parents who are looking for care that will address their individual child's needs. So how do parents get help choosing care?



In Alamance County, the Alamance Partnership for Children's Parent Resource Counselor is available to assist parents in choosing quality child care. The counselor and parent will discuss the family's individual needs in finding and choosing quality child care. Because of the importance of this choice, the counselor is

available through every part of this decision-making process.



There is a checklist that parents can use to help identify high-quality care. You can find the checklist on page three of this newsletter, and it can also be given to parents by the Parent Resource Counselor.

Ashley Moore, our Parent Resource Counselor, can be reached at 336.513.0063 x 108.

High-Quality Child Care Checklist

Alamance Partnership for Children's Quality Child Care Checklist

Call the Alamance Partnership for Children at 336.513.0063.

Go to www.ncchildcare.net to get information about licensed child care facilities.

Use this checklist as a guide when you visit child care facilities.

Yes/No Do the child care providers/teachers have credentials and/or a degree in early childhood education or child development?

Yes/No Are the non-degreed and/or non-credentialed child care providers/teachers

currently enrolled in college courses?

Yes/No Are the teacher/child ratios (the number of adults per child) low enough that children can receive lots of individual attention throughout the day?

Yes/No Is the child care center director an experienced child care administrator with formal education in early childhood education and child care administration?

Yes/No Does the child care facility have staff turnover rates of less than 20% per year?

Yes/No Does the facility meet higher than minimal licensing standards by either being a 3-5 star licensed facility or by being nationally accredited?

Yes/No Do parents have opportunities to be involved by volunteering in the classroom or on an advisory committee or board?

Yes/No Do providers wash their hands and the children's hands often, such as after wiping noses, before they serve snacks, and after toileting and diaper changes?

Yes/No Are there lots of toys and materials (such as books, puzzles, blocks, and art supplies) available for the children to explore and play with throughout the day?

Yes/No Are there developmentally appropriate activities planned for the children?

Yes/No Above all, are the children happy and busy?

Yes/No If you were a child, would you be happy spending your day here?

Increase Your Star Rating

Do you work in a child care facility that is interested in increasing its star rating? If so, the Early Childhood Specialists at the Alamance Partnership for Children can help you. We are currently working with several facilities. If your facility would like to receive technical assistance, please call our Child Care Services Manager, Debbi Kennerson-Webb, at 336.513.0063, x 103 or at dkennerson-webb@alamancechildren.org.



Did You Know?

Most people realize that Alamance Partnership for Children provides referrals for high quality childcare. What many do not know is that we also provide referrals for full and part time after school programs in Alamance County for school-aged children. If you're seeking camps for your school-aged child this summer, please call our Parent Resource Counselor, Ashley Moore, at 336.513.0063 x 108. She will be happy

to help you.

As part of our continuing effort to be more environmentally conscious, our Child Care Connections newsletter is available exclusively by email or on our website at www.alamancechildren.org. If you would like to join our mailing list, please send an email to akalo@alamancechildren.org with the word *Subscribe* in the subject line. We

would love to add you to our list so you can find out all of the exciting things happening at the Alamance Partnership for Children.

Alamance Partnership for Children offers several parent support groups, including Incredible Years and Motherhead®. Is one of these classes right for you and your family? Call us at 513.0063 and find out about our

Who We Are

Alamance Partnership for Children is a Smart Start agency serving children birth to age five and their families. We offer support in a variety of areas. Please call us at 336.513.0063 to find out more about our programs

Our Vision: All Alamance County children will arrive at school healthy, happy, and ready for success in school and life.

Our Mission: The Alamance County Partnership for Children shapes opinion and mobilizes resources to support Alamance County families in creating and sustaining nurturing environments for their children.

Our Motto: We help families help their preschool children thrive.

Quiénes Somos

El Programa Alamance Partnership for Children es una agencia de Smart Start sirviendo niños desde recién nacidos y hasta la edad de cinco años y sus familias. Ofrecemos servicios de apoyo en una variedad de áreas. Por favor llámenos AL 336.513.0063 para averiguar más sobre nuestros programas.

Nuestra Visión: Todos los niños del Condado de Alamance llegarán a la escuela sanos y felices, así como listos para tener éxito en la escuela y en su vida.

Nuestra Misión: Alamance Partnership for Children ayuda a darle forma a la opinión pública y moviliza recursos para apoyar a las familias del Condado de Alamance en la creación y sostenimiento de ambientes que nutren a nuestros niños en todos los aspectos.

Nuestro Lema: Ayudamos a familias a ayudar a sus niños preescolares a prosperar.

Alamance Partnership for Children Staff

Angela Kalo-Outreach Coordinator

Ann Hess-Early Childhood Specialist

Ann Meletzke-Family Services Manager

Ashley Moore-Parent Resource Counselor

Barbara Turrentine-Bowe-Parent Educator

Bonita Brown-Early Childhood Specialist

Carrie Stone-Program Director

Cindy Watkins-Executive Director

Dana Walker-Finance/HR Manager

Debbi Kennerson-Webb-Child Care Services Manager

Jessica Landes-Bilingual Parent Educator

Kim Morabito-Incredible Years Coordinator

Lisa Rettie-Early Childhood Specialist

Nan Gilliam-Executive Administrative Assistant/Office Manager

Sarah Raykes-Literacy Specialist

Alamance Partnership for Children Board

Executive Committee

Bryan Hagood, Chair

Patty Philipps, Vice Chair

Larry Vellani, Immediate Past Chair

Stephanie Williams, Treasurer

Beth Davis, Secretary

Barry Bass

Ric Bruton

David Carter

Lynn Crabtree

Mark Cryan

Joyce Dickey

Patti Horan

Kristie Kylander

Jean Maness

Linda Massey

Rasanda Mitchell

Valerie Morris

Bethany Orr

Jeannie Proctor

Carolyn Rhode

Julie Walker

Ron Waters



2322 River Road • Burlington, NC 272175 • 336.513.0063 • 336.266.1152

www.alamancechildren.org

