



Childhood Connections

October 2021

With the highly contagious Delta variant spreading, COVID-19 cases among young children – even babies – are rising.



Children younger than 12 aren't eligible for vaccines yet, and children's hospitals are already stressed.

*Please do your part to keep
North Carolina's youngest children safe.*



WEAR A MASK. GET VACCINATED.



For information
on COVID-19
covid19.ncdhhs.gov

To find a
vaccine location
myspot.nc.gov


smart start
Each Child. Every Community.

<https://www.alamance-nc.com/covid19/vaccine-scheduling/>



From the Desk of the Executive Director Carrie Theall

I know, I know—we are all tired of talking about the pandemic. There is even a term for it, “Pandemic Fatigue.” As an employer, the Alamance Partnership for Children has certainly experienced many challenges during this period and I have witnessed several of our own staff become “pandemic fatigued.” I have to remind myself this is not the time to become lax in our approach to this enormous issue. Remember—people’s lives are at stake. I think one of the most disturbing statistics as of late is that 1 in 500 Americans has died from COVID-19. I think about that a lot. More importantly I think about the children and families we serve here in Alamance County and what our responsibility is to their health and well-being. Because of this, the Partnership made a commitment back in the spring to require all of our employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This was a decision that received full support from our Board of Directors who recognize the importance of keeping staff, families, and children safe.

Several of my colleagues from across the state have asked how we managed to have our staff 100% vaccinated. I am so proud to say that not one employee was against being immunized. In fact, all had made the decision before the policy was put into place. We are steadfast to any new job applicants that we will not hire unless there is proof of vaccination.

We know through current news stories and information coming from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that breakthrough cases can occur. However, the research is clear—people who are immunized are much less likely to be hospitalized and/or die from COVID-19. The immunizations are safe and produce little to no side effects. Here in Alamance County, **25,202 cases of COVID-19** have been recorded and **321 people have died**. Less than half of our total population have been fully vaccinated.

We can do better. We have over 11,000 birth to five children in this county and none of them can receive an immunization yet. It is our responsibility as adults to protect our most vulnerable—our children. Please consider getting vaccinated if you have not already done so. And if you are vaccinated, please encourage others to get their shots. We really are in this together and our children need us to do the right thing.





Halloween Roll and Read 2021

When: Saturday, October 23, 2021

Time: 10:00am—1:00pm

Where: Alamance Partnership for Children
Outdoor Learning Environment

2322 River Road

Burlington, NC 27217



- Roll a stroller, bike, or walk through Historic Glencoe Village to enjoy stories read by your favorite characters
- Wear Your Halloween Costume
- Free games, crafts, and music
- Free lunch will be provided



RSVP: 336.513.0063

pscott@alamancechildren.org

tbrown@alamancechildren.org

In case of inclement weather,
visit The Partnership's Facebook page.

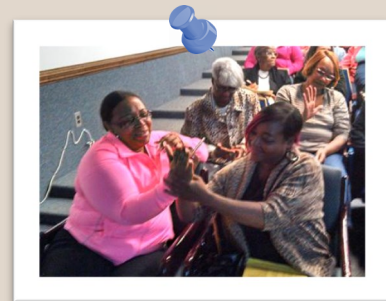


Child Care Resource & Referral

Importance of Quality Training

A well-trained workforce is needed to meet the growing need for high-quality child care. Check out the upcoming trainings available to the child care community listed below. More trainings and registration information can be found by visiting the CCSA training calendar at www.childcareservices.org.

Course Name	Date	Time	Instructor
Individual Temperaments in Infant & Toddler Classrooms	10/7/21	6:15-8:15pm	Sara Kiehn
ITS-SIDS	10/7/21	6:30-8:30pm	Amanda Hazen
Prescription for Toxic Stress	10/13/21	6:30-8:30pm	Amanda Hazen
Reducing Challenging Behaviors During Transition Times	10/27/21	6:00-8:00pm	Sara Kiehn
Conversations with Young Children Require Getting on Their Level	10/28/21	6:15-8:15pm	Angela Lowery-Taylor



Get Connected and Stay Connected

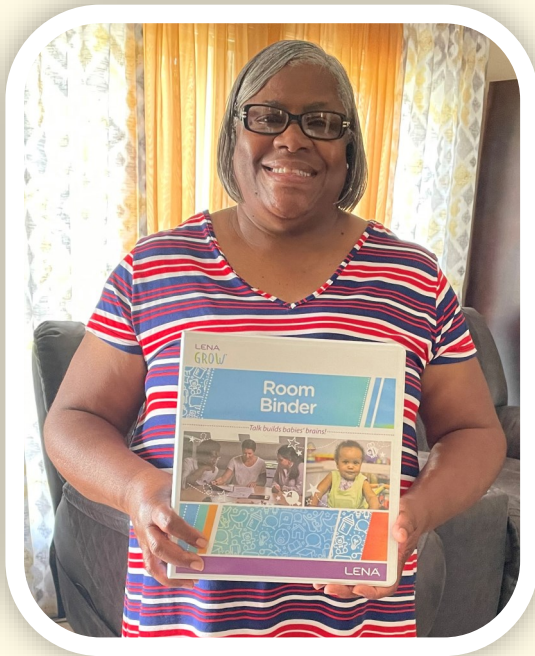
Alamance County child care providers are valuable to our community and we have many ways to support you:

- Director's Roundtable
- Family Child Care Home Community of Practice
- Individual Technical Assistance
- Call **Sara** or **Angela** at 336-513-0063 to learn more



New LENA Participant

What is a conversational turn? It is the back and forth conversation between a caregiver and child. LENA technology measures these turns allowing caregivers to gain feedback on their daily interactions. LENA is an eleven-week program that consists of free resources, coaching, and technical assistance—along with the opportunity to become a LENA certified teacher.



Shelby Moore, owner of **Shelby's In Home Day Care**, has been in child care for over fifteen years.

She operates one shift with a maximum capacity of five children ranging from 3-5 years in age. Shelby began her LENA journey on August 25th. The average number of conversational turns expected for family child care homes is **40 turns per hour**.

Week 1: **41** Conversational turns per hour were achieved

Week 2: **112** Conversational turns per hour were achieved

Shelby has tripled the number of conversational turns with only two recording sessions.

She has incorporated different activities into the learning environment, such as letting the children be helpers during mealtime and listening to the sounds of nature when outside to help increase talking. This has also provided learning opportunities for the children in her care. Shelby makes sure that parents are a part of her LENA journey by giving them tasks such as allowing the children to ring the doorbell the week of Shared Reading, which was supported by the book **The Doorbell Rang**. Shelby is well on her way to becoming a LENA Certified Teacher.

If you would like to learn more about LENA or participate in the program, please contact:

Angela Lowery-Taylor

Child Care Specialist & LENA Certified Coach

alowery-taylor@alamancechildren.org

336.513.0063 ext. 120





Highlights from..



Snowball into PreK





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

*Some Eligibility Restrictions Apply

Alamance Partnership for Children
2322 River Road
Burlington, NC 27217



Pre-K is Key!

Pre-K is a crucial stage to a child's development

- Children who attend preschool gain confidence by learning the expectations and routines of school through close communication with other children.
- Pre-K is a place where children learn to socialize, make decisions, interact with others, and negotiate—all of which are important to child development.
- **Attending Pre-K decreases both achievement and skill gaps**
- 123 studies across four decades of early education research found that by third grade, one-third of the achievement gap can be closed by early education.
- Children who attended Pre-K usually have a higher grade point average and are more likely to graduate high school and college.
- Fundamental skills like eye contact, self-confidence, work efficiency, attention span, and self regulation are developed during the earliest stages of childhood and are enriched in Pre-K.



Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers (PAT) promotes thriving families and children by matching families with a parent educator who makes regular personal home visits during a child's earliest years in life, from prenatal through kindergarten. Parents As Teachers provides support to Alamance County families through visits with certified PAT educators focusing on these components of the program:

- Personal home visits
- Group connections/meetings
- Annual screening
- Resource networking

Referrals are accepted for any parent with a child from pregnancy to age five. For more information about PAT, please contact Tracey Brown at (336) 513-0063 ext 104 or tbrown@alamancechildren.org

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.” ~Emilie Buchwald



Wishing all of our Parents as Teachers graduates an awesome school year.



Kaleidoscope Play and Learn

Kaleidoscope playgroups are now being offered outside in our Outdoor Learning Environment. Sessions are free to all parents and caregivers with children ages birth to five in Alamance County.



When: Wednesday mornings

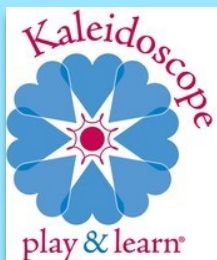
Time: 10:30am-12:00pm

Where: 2322 River Road (Glencoe Mill Village)

For more information, please contact

Vivlica Rodgers at (336) 513-0063 or

vrodgers@alamancechildren.org



The Incredible Years Program is a Parent Support Group That Focuses on Building a Nurturing Relationship with Your Child and Managing Challenging Behaviors

Alamance Partnership for Children is offering parenting classes starting Winter 2022.

Stay tuned for more information.

Classes Offered: Preschool (3-5 years), School Age (6-12 years), and Spanish

A \$50 BONUS WILL BE PAID TO ALL PARENTS WHO COMPLETE THE CLASS

For more information or to register, contact
Vivlica Rodgers, Incredible Years/Kaleidoscope
Coordinator at

Phone: 336.513.0063 ext.110

Email: vrodgers@alamancechildren.org

or visit our website www.alamancechildren.org

The Incredible Years



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Early Childhood Literacy

Dolly Parton Continues to Receive Accolades.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library received the \$150,000 David M. Rubenstein Prize from the Library of Congress on September 15. Nicknamed "the little program that could," Dolly's program has delivered more than 165 million books to children world-wide.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, she started the Imagination Library in 1995. The program has grown to include all 50 states and several countries. The program delivers 1.8 million books to children five years old and younger every month.

The same week, Time Magazine named Dolly Parton among the 100 most influential people of 2021 with an article written by Miley Cyrus, Parton's goddaughter. "Have you ever met anyone who doesn't love Dolly Parton? I never have," Cyrus wrote in the opening.

Parton has made incredible strides in several areas this year:

- Her "Christmas on the Square" film was awarded an Emmy for Outstanding Television Movie by the Television Academy just last week.
- The country star donated \$1 million to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center earlier this year to help fund the Moderna vaccine.
- She launched her new perfume, *Scent from Above* and co-authored a novel with James Patterson titled *Run, Rose, Run*, set to release with an album of the same name in March 2022..

"There's a theory that you shouldn't meet your heroes, but I wish everyone had the chance to meet Dolly Parton because she's even better than your sparkliest dreams," Cyrus concluded.



The Imagination Library currently serves 1,877,961 young children.



**ENROLL
YOUR CHILD
NOW!**

Enroll your children for these free monthly books on the Partnership's website :

www.alamancechildren.org.

Our Staff

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2021-2022 Board of Directors

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Kelly Mendenhall
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Allen Johnson

**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.**

