



# Childhood Connections

March 2022

“In nature, a child finds freedom, fantasy, and privacy: a place distant from the adult world, a separate peace.”

~Richard Louv

## SAVE THE DATE

**What: Day of the Child**

**When: April 30th, 2022**

**Where: Outdoor Learning Environment  
(Corner of River Rd. and Hodges Rd.)**

**\*FREE LUNCH\*ACTIVITIES\*MUSIC\***





## From the Desk of the Executive Director Carrie Theall

As we celebrate the coming of spring here at the Partnership, I can't help but wonder about the children in the Ukraine. We take for granted sunny days where our children can run and jump in the sunshine. However in the Ukraine, parents are fearing for the very lives of their children under the onslaught of Russian aggression. The invasion is a betrayal of children's rights, safety, and life. I cannot imagine how Ukrainian parents and grandparents are suffering in their helplessness to keep their children safe. We have seen news stories showing the painful separation of families as mother and fathers stay to defend their homeland. I can't help but think history truly does repeat itself. Scenes in the rail station in Po-

land seem to be reminiscent of Holocaust images from WWII. And as always, innocent children suffer the most. Even before the war, Ukraine was a country where 35% of its population is affected by poverty. The education system is in dire need of improvements and there is an ongoing struggle with children living on the streets. Now more than ever, Ukrainian children need our support.

We must also be mindful of our children here in the US and how they are processing this news. Below are some tips on how to handle questions from children about war.

### Talking to Children About War

With news of the war in Ukraine dominating headlines, social media platforms and conversations across the country, many children in early learning and care and school age childcare settings will have been exposed to information about the conflict.

Children do not always talk about what is worrying them but they may be trying to make sense of this information by themselves and, in the absence of factual information, imagining situations to be far worse than they are. Every child is different, however, and while some might be feeling scared, others may not be worried at all.

Below are some strategies for talking to children about the current situation that will help to ease their concerns.

**Keep calm.** Check in with yourself and how are you currently feeling. When you are feeling anxious, children can notice this and begin to feel stressed too. If needed, take some time to calm.

**Talk to children.** We instinctively want to protect children from things that might frighten them; however not talking about something can make children more scared. If children are already talking about the war, encourage them to tell you what they have heard and ask them how they are feeling. If children are showing no interest, leave them be.

**Answer questions.** Answer children's questions in language they will understand with a level of information appropriate to their age. Avoid sharing too much information as this can be overwhelming. If you do not have all the answers, that is ok. Tell the child you will let them know when you know.

**Create a safe environment.** Children need to feel safe and secure. Limit children's exposure to news reports and discuss your own worries outside of children's earshot.

**Reassure them.** Young children often personalise situations and may perceive the danger to be closer to home. Let them know that although war is very serious, they do not need to worry about it happening in their neighbourhood. Tell them you understand how they are feeling and reassure them that they are safe and that you are there to take care of them. It is important, however, to be realistic and not to promise that no one will get hurt.

**Help children find ways to express themselves.** Some children may not be able to talk about their thoughts or feelings but can be supported to make sense of the world through play.

**Do something positive.** Encourage children to engage in activities where they can feel helpful such as drawing pictures to send to children who are living in affected areas.

**Avoid stereotyping** groups of people by nationality and challenge hateful talk.

**Partner with parents.** Share information on the discussions children are having at home and in the setting or any fears or concerns the child may have.

Children who have experienced trauma or loss may be particularly vulnerable to news of war and conflict and may need extra support. Children with relatives in the regions impacted by conflict will also need special attention.



## Child Care Resource & Referral

The Partnership is grateful for the commitment and hard work each child care provider has given to the children of Alamance County over the last year. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Provider Appreciation Banquet to be held on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Stay tuned for more details about the location and free registration.



*Latoya Poole, of Kidz-In-Progress, is using a storyboard that she created while participating in the Creating Storyboards professional development class.*

Child care programs can increase their star rating through the support of the Language Environment Assessment (LENA). LENA teaches child care providers how to increase their interactions with children and improve early literacy skills. LENA is a free technical assistance program offered to licensed child care programs in Alamance County. The next virtual LENA interest meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2022 from 6:15-7:15pm. Please contact Angela Lowery-Taylor at [alowery-taylor@alamancechildren.org](mailto:alowery-taylor@alamancechildren.org) to register for the interest meeting.

# Child Care Resource & Referral

## April –June 2022 Training Calendar

Registration must be done through the CCSA website <https://www.childcareservices.org/>. Click on the *providers* tab, then click on the *professional development* tab. Registration will close seven days prior to the training event. Trainings offered by the Alamance Partnership are free for any participant working in a licensed child care program. Email Sara Kiehn at [skiehn@alamancechildren.org](mailto:skiehn@alamancechildren.org) with any training questions.

April	Workshop Title	Time	Location	Presenter	Cost	Clock Hours
28	The Basics of FCCERS-R	6:15-8:15pm	Virtual	Angela Lowery-Taylor	N/A	2.0
May	Workshop Title	Time	Location	Presenter	Cost	Clock Hours
3	ITS-SIDS	6:30-8:30pm	Alamance Partnership	Amanda Hazen	N/A	2.0
19	Caregiving Routines: A Major Component of the Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers	6:30-8:30pm	Virtual	Amanda Hazen	N/A	2.0
June	Workshop Title	Time	Location	Presenter	Cost	Clock Hours
7	ITS-SIDS	1:00-3:00pm	Virtual	Amanda Hazen	N/A	2.0
9	Communicating Challenging Behaviors with Families	6:30-8:30 pm	Alamance Partnership for Children	Sara Kiehn	N/A	2.0
23	Be Active Kids-Preschool	6:15-8:15pm	Alamance Partnership for Children	Angela Lowery-Taylor	N/A	2.0



Parents as Teachers (PAT) is pleased to announce Carina Hoover, Family Support Specialist has completed the Parents as Teachers training and will be starting to serve families in the program. Carina is excited to have the opportunity to work with children and families enrolled in the PAT program.

With warmer weather arriving, our PAT families enjoyed a fun art group meeting in the Outdoor Learning Environment.

The Parents as Teachers program provides the opportunity for families to connect with resources and meet other families through our monthly group meetings.

#### Upcoming Group Meetings:

**March 30<sup>th</sup>** -Tax and Couponing Information Session, City Gate Dream Center 5:30pm-6:30pm

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**- Celebrating Children's Day in the OLE (Outdoor Learning Environment) 10:30am-1:00pm

For more information contact Sandra Vanover, PAT Educator @ 336-513-063 ext.112.



# Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is now OPEN



NC Pre-K Applications are now being accepted for the 2022-2023 school year. NC Pre-Kindergarten is a fun and exciting learning opportunity for children. They develop many skills which make the transition to kindergarten easier. NC Pre-Kindergarten classes are located in Alamance Burlington Schools, Head Start, and private child care centers.

NC Pre-K serves children residing in a low-income households; children of eligible military families; children with an identified disability or developmen-

tal/educational need; children/families with limited English skills; and children living with a foster family, legal guardian, or relative.

**The child must turn four-years-old on or before August 31, 2021, to be eligible for NC Pre-K for the 2022-2023 school year.**

*Three-year-old children may also qualify under the Head Start program.*

**We have already received over 200 applications!**

## Also happening in the world of NC Pre-K...

### NC Pre-K Site Selection is underway

The NC Pre-K Program has a two-year contract with all sites that are currently servicing NC Pre-K students. Every two years, the NC Pre-K Committee is required to conduct the Site Selection Process and review program information for existing sites, as well as for new sites that would like to apply to join NC Pre-K.

**We received 23 applications from interested sites, current and new.**

The NC Pre-K Advisory Site Selection Subcommittee met on March 8, 2022, and reviewed all applications received. All applications are set to be reviewed again at the next NC Pre-K

Committee meeting.

### Next NC Pre-K Committee Meeting

**March 22, 2022, at 2pm**

## Early Literacy

### Goodnight with Dolly Imagination Library Bedtime Stories with Dolly Parton

“It is an honor for me to share the incredible talent of these authors and illustrators. They make us smile, they make us laugh, and they make us think.”

– Dolly Parton



Enjoy 10 episodes of Dolly Parton reading bedtime stories from the Imagination Library collection. Episodes feature activity sheets, parent reading tips, and selected songs performed by Dolly Parton. Click the link below for **Good Night with Dolly**:

<https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/goodnight-with-dolly/>

As of February 2022, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library has gifted 176,606, 329 books to young children. Are your children registered for these free monthly books?



#### Registration is easy!

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

Email: [pscott@alamancechildren.org](mailto:pscott@alamancechildren.org)

Call: (336) 513-0063



**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 Will Offer Classes Beginning in March**

**Classes Offered:**

**Preschool (3-5 years) CityGate Dream Center**

**Mondays: March 28, 2022– June 27, 2022 6:00pm-8:00pm**

**School Age (6-12 years) Alamance Partnership for Children**

**Tuesdays: April 5, 2022-June 28, 2022 6pm-8pm**

**Autism and Language Delays (TBA)**



**FREE DINNER  
AND CHILD  
CARE**

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

**HIRING INCREDIBLE YEARS  
FACILITATORS PART-TIME  
(PAID TRAINING) APPLY ON  
INDEED**

For more information or to register contact:

**Vivlica Rodgers,**

Incredible Years/Kaleidoscope Coordinator

at

**Phone: 336.513.0063 ext.110**

Email: [vrodgers@alamancechildren.org](mailto:vrodgers@alamancechildren.org)

or visit our website

[www.alamancechildren.org](http://www.alamancechildren.org)



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



United Way  
of Alamance County



# KALEIDOSCOPE PLAY AND LEARN

Kaleidoscope playgroups are now being offered in-person at the Outdoor Learning Environment. Sessions are free to all parents and caregivers with children birth to five in Alamance County.

## Where: Outdoor Learning Environment

at the corner of Hodges and River Road  
in Glencoe Mill Village, Burlington

When: Wednesday Mornings

Time: 10:30am-12:00pm



For more information, please contact  
Vivlica Rodgers at (336) 513-0063 or  
[vrodgers@alamancechildren.org](mailto:vrodgers@alamancechildren.org)

## Our Staff

**Carrie Theall, Executive Director**  
ctheall@alamancechildren.org

**Tamatha Kohler, Program Director**  
tkohler@alamancechildren.org

**Melinda McGuire, Finance & HR  
Manager**  
mmcguire@alamancechildren.org

**Penny Scott, Literacy Specialist**  
psscott@alamancechildren.org

**Janay Powell, NC Pre-K Coordinator**  
jpowell@alamancechildren.org

**Carina Hoover, NC Pre-K Family  
Specialist**  
choover@alamancechildren.org

**Sandra Vanover, Parents as Teachers  
Educator**  
svanover@alamancechildren.org

**Sara Kiehn, Early Learning Services  
Manager**  
skiehn@alamancechildren.org

**Vivlica Rodgers, Incredible Years/  
Kaleidoscope Coordinator**  
vrodgers@alamancechildren.org

**Angela Lowery-Taylor, Child Care  
Specialist**  
alowerytaylor@alamancechildren.org

**Michelle Howe, Executive Assistant/  
Office Manager**  
mhowe@alamancechildren.org

## 2021-2022 Board of Directors

### Executive Committee:

Nikki Ratliff, Board Chair  
Jeff Smythe, Past Board Chair  
Logan Sharpe, Vice Chair  
David Ealy, Treasurer  
Lisa Lippert, Secretary  
Susana Goldman, At-Large

Robin Finberg	Christy McCawley
Heidi Hollingsworth	Kelly Mendenhall
Ricky Hurtado	Dejuana Bigelow
Doug Hyman	Allen Johnson
Katrina Jackson	
Patricia Matterson	

**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.**

