



• NEW HANOVER COUNTY •

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION NEWS

Smart Start Early Care and Education Newsletter

April - June 2021

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



Be a Connection this April

The 2021 Child Abuse Prevention Month theme is:

*You can be a connection for children
in your community!*

North Carolina's Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Month 2021 activities will take place online! Stay tuned to [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) and participate in the activities below!

• **Thursday, April 1 – Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick off**

Use the Social Media Toolkit provided below to join us in kicking off Child Abuse Prevention Month online!

• **Thursday, April 1 – Participate in Wear Blue Day**

To participate, wear blue and share photos with #WearBlueDay2021 & #BeAConnection.

• **Sunday, April 11 – Saturday, April 17th – #BeAConnection Campaign**

Join the statewide #BeAConnection Campaign to amplify the ways we all can be a connection for children! See more information in the dropdown below!

• **Wednesday, April 21 – National Child Abuse Prevention Digital Advocacy Day**

Stay tuned for more information

Visit our [Policy Page](#) to learn about Prevent Child Abuse NC's Policy Priorities

• **DATE TBD – Prevent Child Abuse America Virtual Town Hall**

Stay tuned for more information

• **Plant a Virtual Pinwheel to Recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month!**

Plant a virtual pinwheel in a digital pinwheel garden

Customize your pinwheel and/or dedicate it to someone!

Then, select Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina to benefit from your virtual pinwheel contribution

• **Host a Connected Communities, Connected Congregations Children's Sabbath Celebration**

Connections Matter in NC faith communities. [Host a Children's Sabbath Celebration](#)

and learn how the everyday connections you make help prevent child maltreatment.

To learn more, visit [Prevent Child Abuse NC's website](#).

<https://www.preventchildabusenc.org/>

'Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me.'

-Mr. Rogers

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How often are you talking to your children?

Are you curious about how often the teachers in your infant/toddler classrooms talk to their children throughout the day? **LENA Grow** is FREE to participate in and offers a window into learning more about classroom interactions and how they can be improved. Whether you are preparing for ITERS-R or FCCERS-R assessment or just looking for an effective way to measure interactions, **LENA Grow** is an easy way to cover that without adding more stress to you or your amazing teachers.

Join Krista for an informational Zoom session to learn more!

Tuesday, May 4 6:30-7:30pm

This workshop is reserved for directors and FCCH providers.

**LENA
GROW™**

See details on our training calendar

Save the Date!

Provider Appreciation Night

Thursday, May 6, 2021

food trucks door prizes
swag bags & more

We invite all early childhood professionals who work with and care for young children to join us for this special event.

formal invitation to be mailed in April

NC Rated License Assessment Program Online Learning

NC RLAP offers free weekly webinars to help you learn more about the Environment Rating Scales.

Additionally, there are a ton of free resources on their website.

Some of their content comes with training contact hours.

Visit their website for more details.
nclap.org

Directors: a private  Facebook group, **Smart Start of NHC: Early Childhood Directors**, was created for you. This page provides a place for administrators to network, ask questions of each other and coordinate efforts to better serve the children in their program. In addition, the Smart Start ECE team will share news and events, and help you with questions you may have about our services.

We hope you join to keep in touch! Find us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECEofNHC/>



Directors...

...Looking for a way to meet other directors, network, get ideas, or share frustrations?

We're still facilitating our Director Dialogues—*just via Zoom!*

Join other directors for the next meeting on **Tuesday, May 25th at 1:00pm**

A Zoom link will be emailed prior to the meeting. No planned agenda, and no RSVP needed, log on to chat!

For more information or questions, contact Natalie Pond.

...share our newsletter and training calendar with your staff.

- * post them in the staff breakroom (do staff know if the newsletter and training calendar are posted and where?)
- * email them to staff
- * provide a copy to each classroom or teacher or provide them with our website address to view the training calendar
- * encourage staff to decide which training(s) he/she would like to register for
- * remember that classes fill quickly. It's important to register online early.

Be sure to always check your junk/spam email folder if you aren't seeing an email from us—then mark us as a 'Safe Sender'.

We have the following supplies available for FREE

medicine boxes gloves

toilet paper

Eco-San cleaner (for those who have kitchens)



Eco-San is a specially formulated food contact surface sanitizer and de-stainer for use in low-temperature warewashing machines that rinses clear. Eco-San leaves dishes, flatware and glassware both sparkling and hygienically clean, as it combats a broad spectrum of organisms. A high concentration of chlorinating agent makes Eco-San suitable for use with an automatic dispensing system which is safer, more sanitary and insures the correct amount of product is being used.

Please contact Mindy to request a supply.

Celebrate Earth Day in your Classroom

This Earth Day, April 22nd, try incorporating more recycled materials* into open ended play. Below are some ideas from NAEYC on how to use common recycled items as classroom materials.

- Add plastic lids and caps to your art center for children to use as play dough cutters
- Add containers (empty cereal boxes, spices, boxed meals, etc.) to the dramatic play center for children to use as kitchen props
- Add materials with large print to your writing center and encourage children to copy or trace familiar words

*Make sure that recycled items are clean, have no sharp parts and do not pose a choking hazard.

If you have a large collection of recycled materials, try creating an outdoor obstacle course! As you set up the obstacle course, ask children to identify the previous uses of each item. Demonstrate how to move through the course and describe your actions out loud.

For more detailed instructions, or other activity ideas, you can check out "Learn Every Day About Our Green Earth" from the Resource Room library! Other titles available include: "Learn and Play the Green Way", "Learn and Play the Recycle Way", "Loose Parts", and "Loose Parts 3".

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/dec2017/repurposing-creative-finds-creative-minds-thinking-outside-box>



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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically, send us an email letting us know.

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