



• NEW HANOVER COUNTY •

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION NEWS

Smart Start Early Care and Education Newsletter

January - March 2023

Bike Helmet Giveaway

Smart Start will be having a virtual drawing to give away a set of child sized bike helmets to child care programs.

If you are interested in being entered for this drawing, simply email Ciara.montgomery@newhanoverkids.org. Please include your name, the name of your childcare facility, and contact information in your email.

Sites must respond by Friday, January 20, 2023 to be entered in the giveaway. Sites will be randomly selected and contacted by January 31.

The number of helmets provided to each winner will be determined by how many sites enter to win.



Kindergarten Registration Packets

We're gearing up to deliver Kindergarten Registration packets to all early childhood programs.

Packets include registration dates for NHC Schools, details on how to register the child, and other valuable resources.

Look for an email in early January inquiring about how many packets you'll need for rising kindergarteners.

Having a family night in which packet distribution would be optimal? Stop by our office to pick up your packets. All packets should be picked up or delivered by **February 28, 2023**.

Contact Ciara Montgomery for pick up arrangements or questions.

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."

-Maya Angelou

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looking ahead...

Dedication to Education Bonus for Individuals

Smart Start of New Hanover County is pleased to honor early childhood professionals who have achieved degrees or certifications toward their careers.

Applications will be available in early January; watch your mail & email.

Applications must be received or postmarked by **Friday, February 10, 2023** at 5pm. Faxed or emailed applications will **not** be accepted.

Contact Natalie Pond for more details.

Provider Appreciation Night

Thursday, May 11, 2023

4:30pm-7:30pm

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

Formal invitation mailed in April.

Want to learn more about what's available in the Smart Start Resource Room or how our TA consultants can help you?

**Invite us to your
next staff meeting!**

Our BIS, CCRR and CCHC consultants and/or Resource Room specialist can stop by your site and talk all about the services and resources we offer. Consultants can give a brief overview of the classroom supports they provide or go into detail on a specific topic your teachers are interested in. They can also stick around for one-on-one help with teachers!

Contact us to schedule a visit to your staff meeting!

Private Workshop Fee Changes (including CPR/1st Aid)

Private workshops are requested specifically for your staff.

As of January 1, 2023, our private & CPR workshop fees will be dependent on location of workshop.

Private (1-3 cr. hr.)

at Smart Start: \$10/person

at facility: \$15/person

CPR & First Aid

at Smart Start: \$40/person

at facility: \$55/person

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/>



Directors...

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

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

Join other directors for the next meeting on **Thurs., February 2 at noon**

A Zoom link will be emailed prior to the meeting. No planned agenda, and no RSVP needed— just 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'.

Resource
Room
Corner

Welcome to our new Resource Room Specialist!

Ciara Montgomery joins our Early Care & Education team and brings a lot of energy to the Resource Room! She's excited to meet you and continue to provide great resources for you. For all Resource Room inquiries, contact her at:

ciara.montgomery@newhanoverkids.org

910-815-3731 ext. 1015

Indoor Physical Activity Ideas

As the weather cools you may find your class spending less time outdoors. Low temperatures and inclement weather shouldn't mean an end to active play though! Below are a couple activity ideas to keep building gross motor skills inside the classroom, provided by NAEYC:

Spiderwebs: Weave long lengths of yarn through sturdy furniture at different heights. (You can also use crepe paper streamers for younger children, as the streamers will break if a child gets tangled in them.) As children carefully navigate their way through the webs, encourage spatial awareness using words like over, under, between, and through.

The Big Haul: Using a very sturdy laundry basket, have one child sit in the basket while others pull or push the basket around the room. You can vary the weight and difficulty by adding or subtracting children or materials in the basket, like unit blocks, or anything else the children want to experiment with. Use language and questions that encourage high-level comparing and contrasting, like *more*, *less*, *heavier*, *lighter*, *faster*, *slower*, *easy*, and *difficult*. Children can work in pairs or small groups.

[Looking for more activity ideas or help creating your own?](#) Check out the Smart Start Resource Room! Play materials are available for checkout such as our "Movement" theme box or our "Be Active Kids" kit. We also have various teacher resource books, such as "Moving and Learning Across the Curriculum" or "Active Learning for Fours".



Smart Start of New Hanover County
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Address Service Requested

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER AND TRAINING CALENDAR WITH ALL STAFF

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

Contact Us

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