

Welcome New Board Members

Christopher Ratte and Alice Thorp

PAGE 2

CCSA Celebrates 45th Anniversary

April 5, 2019, at the Sheraton Imperial at Research Triangle Park

PAGE 3

Durham PreK

Durham PreK announces first cohort of five classrooms that will begin March 1st.

PAGE 5



CCSA Communicates

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2019

Child Care Services Association works to ensure that affordable, accessible, high-quality child care is available for all young children and their families.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome New Board Members.....	2
DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen.....	2
Educator Award\$.....	3
CCSA 45th Anniversary Celebration.....	3
T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Opportunities.....	4
Sesame Street Turns 50.....	4
T.E.A.C.H. and Wage\$ Symposium.....	5
Durham PreK.....	5
A.S.K. Conference.....	6
Shape NC.....	7
NC Farm to Network.....	7
Sesame Street Storybook.....	8
NC Receives Childhood Grant.....	8
Early Childhood Homelessness.....	8
NCECF's Friendly Workplace Guide.....	8
Local, State & National News.....	11
Early Education Essentials.....	12
Support CCSA.....	12

1829 E. Franklin St.
Suite 1000
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 967-3272

1201 S. Briggs Ave.
Suite 200
Durham, NC 27703
(919) 403-6950

From the President

Here in North Carolina, truly a basketball haven, March Madness is about to begin! In case you aren't aware of this, the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament is a single-elimination tournament of 68 teams that compete in seven rounds for the national championship. I can remember driving around the country to watch games even in college. Fortunately, the "Final Four" doesn't begin until April 6th so we hope many of you will join us on **April 5th for our 45th Anniversary Celebration** with a silent auction. I guarantee we will have items from Duke, UNC and NC State to bid on! We will also hear from Shannon Rudisill, executive director of the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative (see more later in this newsletter), and we are thrilled to present the James and Carolyn Hunt Early Childhood Leadership Award to Robin Britt of Guilford County. We are also excited that Governor Hunt will be able to present this award!

Although we are looking forward to celebrating with you, a lot has been happening in our state and community in the meantime! In one week CCSA was involved in some amazing activities.

- Saturday, February 23rd, CCSA hosted the **A.S.K. (Advancing Skills and Knowledge)** Conference with nearly 800 professionals in attendance. There were amazing workshops including sessions with the **NC Reggio Emilia Collaborative**. We were excited to host **Michael Bonner**, celebrated educator, as our keynote speaker and **Stuart Stotts**, musician and storyteller, as our featured presenter.



- Tuesday, February 26th, we attended the release of the **State of Babies Yearbook: 2019** in Washington D.C. by ZERO TO THREE

in the Russell Senate Building on behalf of Think Babies™ NC. Myra Jones-Taylor, Chief Policy Officer, and Jonathan Cohn, Senior National Correspondent at the *Huffington Post*, presented and discussed the Yearbook that compiles nearly 60 indicators—specifically for children ages 0 to 3—to measure progress across three policy areas: Good Health, Strong Families and Positive Early Learning Experiences. See North Carolina information [here](#).

- Wednesday, February 27th started with a Legislative Briefing and Breakfast hosted by Senators Ralph Hise and Erica Smith and Representatives Josh Dobson and MaryAnn Black and coordinated by the NC Early Education Coalition with Keynote **Dr. Jack Shonkoff, Harvard University**.



- Wednesday also included the release of **NC's Early Childhood Action Plan** with Governor Roy Cooper, Former Governor Jim Hunt, Department of Health and

continued on page 2

From the President


continued from page 1

Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen, state legislators, philanthropists, advocates and early childhood leaders from across the state. What a day! You can see our blog [here](#).

- March 1 was the due date for most of our CCSA grants with Division of Child Development and Early Education. Many thanks to the multiple staff who worked on these submissions. These contracts support our programs across the state including T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship NC, Child Care WAGES, NC CCR&R Council grants and the Infant Toddler Quality Infant Toddler Quality Enhancement Project (ITQEP).
- And Saturday, March 2nd, was the Smart Start 25th Anniversary Celebration with Governor Cooper, Governor Hunt and [Dolly Parton](#). Yes, she even performed Jolene! It was fun to celebrate with so many in North Carolina who have been part of Smart Start in some way. Congratulations, Smart Start!

I won't share a week by week playbook, but I can share that CCSA is working with the NC CCR&R Council to host the CCR&R Institute March 12 & 13 in Greensboro. We expect to have record attendance this year with workshops, keynote speakers Kristi Snuggs, Deputy Director of the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), and Walter Gilliam, Director of the Edward Ziglar Center in Child Development and Social Policy at the Yale University Child Study Center. We will have a Welcome Reception at the National Civil Rights Museum with a Lunch Counter Tour sponsored by the Greensboro Convention and Visitors' Bureau and Guilford Child Development!

Registration is also open for the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGES® National Professional Development Symposium Creating a Profession: Leveraging Investments in Early Childhood Education to Transform the Workforce. Look for more information inside!

Spring is around the corner! I can feel it. Please join us April 5th as we [celebrate the 45th anniversary of CCSA](#) at the Sheraton Imperial at RTP. 

*Best,
Marsha*

Welcome New Board Members

CHRISTOPHER RATTE

Christopher Ratte is a well-seasoned senior level commercial banking professional with over 25 years banking experience in commercial lending, loan portfolio management, financial statement analysis, financial services sales, treasury services sales and treasury product implementation. He has successfully managed over 150 commercial loan relationships over 24 years, including accounts with automobile dealerships, commercial real estate entities, churches, medical practices, manufacturers and numerous other operating companies.



Mr. Ratte holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from ECU and an MBA from UNC Greensboro. He also served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Chris' civic involvement includes former Finance Council member and Finance Committee Chairman of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, NC, from 2000 to 2007. Chris was also a board member of The Servant Center, a non-profit in Greensboro from 2001 to 2007 and Triangle Soccer Development in Raleigh from 2008 to 2016. Finally, Chris is a current member and Past President (2017-2018) of The Rotary Club of Crabtree since 2008.

ALICE THORP


Originally from Virginia, Alice Thorp has dedicated her career to improving the lives of children and families in her community. During her time in Virginia, Thorp was an instructional supervisor at a private school for special needs children in Suffolk and Franklin; a Group Home Supervisor for a residential program in Norfolk when "de-institutionalization" began in Virginia; and a Psychiatric Review Coordinator for tidewater area hospitals.

For 12 years, Thorp served on the board for Down East Partnership for Children (DEPC),




where she became Vice Chair in 2003, Board Chair from 2004-2005, Board Member at Large from 2007-2009 and N.C. Pre-K Committee Chair from 2005-2010. After DEPC received a new grant in 2010, Thorp

became the Planning Coordinator for Region 18 Early Childhood Professional Development Planning Process. She then remained at DEPC as the Healthy Kids Specialist until moving to Chapel Hill in 2013.

Thorp holds a B.S. in Psychology and Special Education from Old Dominion University and an A.A. from Sullins College. 

Secretary Cohen Among Top Women Healthcare Leaders



DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen has been recognized by Modern Healthcare as one of 2019's [Top 25 Women Leaders](#) and is [profiled](#) in the magazine's latest issue. This biennial recognition program honors the top women health care executives who are influencing health policy and care delivery models across the country. See the full press release [here](#). 

Infant-Toddler Educator AWARD\$

Nearly 400 full-time infant-toddler teachers now have more money in their pockets thanks to funding from the Division of Child Development and Early Education for Infant-Toddler Educator AWARD\$. And that's just the tip of the iceberg! AWARD\$ has received over 1,400 applications since the program began October 1, 2018.

AWARD\$ is a statewide education-based salary supplement program intended to increase the compensation and retention of well-educated teachers working with our youngest children. To be eligible, teachers must have at least an Associate Degree with extensive early childhood coursework. In NC, 50% of the infant-toddler workforce now has



Infant-Toddler Educator AWARD\$

a two or four-year degree, and AWARD\$ wants to recognize those achievements and keep the momentum going.

For potential applicants, we have a couple of tips:

- Make sure you complete the application fully (every question must be answered) and submit all the documents requested in the application checklist
- Because this is for teachers working at least 35 hours per week, please be sure the pay stub you submit reflects your full-time schedule

Partners across the state have assisted in getting the word out, evidenced by the large number of early applicants. Please continue your efforts. To date, applications have been submitted from 91 counties and we are aiming for all 100!

Staff are available to answer your questions about AWARD\$ at 919-967-3272.  



YOU'RE INVITED! Celebrate 45 years with **Child Care Services Association**

Friday, April 5, 2019
6 p.m.
Sheraton Imperial Hotel
Dinner | Awards | Silent Auction

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Shannon Rudisill, Executive Director of the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative



Purchase your tickets by March 25!

Buy Tickets TODAY for CCSA's 45th Celebration!

April 5, 2019, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel at Research Triangle Park



Keynote Speaker:
Shannon L. Rudisill, Executive Director,
Early Childhood Funders Collaborative

You are invited to celebrate 45 years of affordable, accessible, high-quality child care for all young children and their families in North Carolina, 21 other states and the District of Columbia through the research, services and advocacy of Child Care Services Association (CCSA). The 45th Anniversary Celebration will take place Friday, April 5, 2019, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in RTP at 6 p.m.

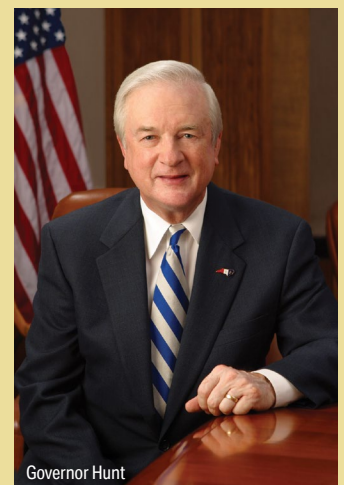
We will also recognize Robin Britt, executive director of Guilford Child Development, with the James and Carolyn Hunt Early Childhood Award for his commitment to North Carolina's young children. Governor Hunt will be on hand to give the award to Britt.

You don't want to miss this event Friday, April 5, 2019, at 6 p.m. at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Research Triangle Park!

Purchase your tickets today at www.childcareservices.org/anniversary.  



Robin Britt



Governor Hunt

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® North Carolina provides scholarship opportunities for new Leadership in Infant and Toddler Learning (LITL) Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

North Carolina is at a critical juncture in our effort to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers—data show the quality of care of infants and toddlers is far below the quality of services for older children, and (thankfully) new resources and energy are being invested in improving the systems and services that serve our youngest children.

One strategy employed to improve the quality of care of infants and toddlers has been through the establishment of a new on-line Post Baccalaureate Certificate program offering advanced training for early childhood educators working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers and their families. The Leadership in Infant and Toddler (LITL) Certificate was collaboratively developed through a partnership with the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG) and Child Care Services Association (CCSA) and is designed to prepare students to pursue leadership positions in a variety of early care and education settings.

The Leadership in Infant and Toddler Learning (LITL) Post Baccalaureate Certificate program at UNCG is designed to meet the needs for specialized training related to infants and toddlers. The goals of the program are to equip educators and other professionals with:

- Deep understanding of the most current theory and research related to infant-toddler development and learning
- Specialized training in best practices for family-centered, relationship-based care for infants and toddlers and their families
- Skills and knowledge to provide and support inclusive services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families
- Leadership skills and knowledge of coaching and mentoring strategies to support sustained change on behalf of infants and toddlers and their families across a variety of roles and services

While there are many opportunities for professional development and higher education for early childhood professionals, this certificate program focuses exclusively on the infant-toddler age, with the goal of

equipping professionals to serve and advocate for infants and toddlers and their families. This type of specialized training is essential to building capacity within our many systems serving this age in order to see sustained improvements in the quality of care for babies and their families.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® North Carolina provides financial support and incentives to eligible early childhood educators pursuing the Leadership in Infant and Toddler Learning (LITL) certificate at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. To date, T.E.A.C.H. has sponsored 13 of the 16 students enrolled in the certificate program.

Two scholarship options exist for participation based on the applicant's role and type of employment setting. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® North Carolina was instrumental in recruiting efforts for the first cohort that began in fall 2018 and continues to be an active recruiting partner for the second cohort of students to begin fall 2019.



Reflections from a LITL Cohort Participant—Priscilla Hayes

"I'm currently an Infant Toddler Specialist, and I have worked with children and families for 22 years. I enrolled in the Leadership in Infant Toddler Learning Certificate program at UNCG

because I wanted to have a degree that focused on infant and toddler learning and would strengthen my knowledge base for working with caregivers of infants and toddlers. My first job in child care was given to me because my mother worked in a pre-toddler classroom at a local church-based child care center that needed a floater. After realizing how much fun and exciting it was to work with the infants and toddlers, I was hooked. I'm surprised at how much fun I'm having learning and interacting with others in my field."

Contributors: Catherine Scott-Little, Jean Kang and Kimberly Bynum

Sesame Street Celebrates 50 Years and Counting

Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind *Sesame Street*, **announced a yearlong anniversary celebration** to mark the 50th Anniversary of the iconic educational children's television program.

"Over the course of the next year, Sesame Workshop will bring people together around the timeless lessons that *Sesame Street* has always taught: everyone, no matter who they are or where they are from, is equally deserving of respect, opportunity—and joy."

According to Sesame Workshop, the anniversary will bring people together through social impact initiatives, digital campaigns, and community events that reflect *Sesame Street*'s unifying messages.

"This is a remarkable milestone for kids, for education and for television. Sesame Street has now brought the life-changing benefits of early learning to children around the globe for 50 years," said Jeffrey D. Dunn, Sesame Workshop's Chief Executive Officer. "Our mission to help kids everywhere grow smarter, stronger, and kinder knows no geographic boundaries. We're everywhere families are and we never stop innovating and growing. That's what keeps us timeless."





T.E.A.C.H. AND WAGE\$ NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

April 23-24, 2019 in Chapel Hill

Creating a Profession: Leveraging Investments in Early Childhood Education to Transform the Workplace


Planning for the 19th Annual T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE\$® National Professional Development Symposium is full steam ahead at the T.E.A.C.H. National Center. Our keynote speaker, plenary panelists and presenters from the ranks of T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE\$ programs, higher education institutions and an array of national organizations from across the country, have been confirmed. The registration booklet has just been distributed to the Center's national mailing list.

The symposium features 35 workshops, which offer us all an opportunity to learn about the ways that our presenters and plenary speakers are addressing systematic barriers to equity of access to higher education and better compensation and supporting more meaningful and clear professional career pathways for early educators in our field. Highlights include:

- Keynote Presentation by **Caitlin McLean**, Workforce Research Specialist, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, who will present *Transforming Early Childhood Jobs:*

Toward a System that Works for Early Educators, Children, and Families

- A Plenary Panel discussion featuring three members of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Advisory Committee—**Helen Blank**, Former Director of Child Care and Early Learning, National Women's Law Center; **Ana De Hoyos O'Connor**, Associate Professor, Early Childhood Studies, San Antonio College; and **Carol Brunson Day**, President, Brunson, Phillips & Day, Inc., who will discuss and debate, *What it Will Take to Move to a Bachelor's Degree Standard for Lead Early Educators*

You can find more information on the symposium and how to register on the Center's [website](#) and in the [registration booklet](#). 



Durham PreK

Durham PreK is excited to announce its first cohort of five classrooms that began March 1st. We welcome Brown's Early Learning School, Childcare Network #57, Oxford Manor Head Start and two classrooms at White Rock Child Development Center to Durham PreK!

The Winter 2019 Durham PreK RFA process was very competitive with 19 providers applying. All candidates submitted a written application. There were two stages of candidate review and consideration before a final ranking of applicants and a selection of 5 classrooms to serve as the first cohort of Durham PreK providers.


Cheryl Brown, the owner and director of Brown's Early Learning School, shares, "I'm excited to be one of the inaugural sites. This is a great collaboration for our community. Durham is moving in the right direction in helping children have a strong foundation for a wonderful and bright future. Our entire community will benefit from this collaboration for years to come. It is a great investment for Durham."

There is a lot of excitement in the Durham community because of Durham PreK's innovative approach. It is not only providing funding to expand access to 4-year-old classrooms in Durham, but also funding quality initiatives that will build the quality and capacity of centers and support higher wages for teachers.

All Durham PreK teachers and directors will receive ongoing technical assistance such as, professional development, engaging in communities of practice and coaching that nurtures high quality teacher-child interactions.

Durham PreK also has a Technical Assistance (TA) Pipeline comprised of 18 classrooms that began in November of 2018. Classrooms and directors in our pipeline also receive weekly technical assistance and professional development to help create and enact quality improvement plans. The goal of our TA Pipeline is to build classroom's quality to meet Durham PreK's higher quality standards and prepare classrooms to succeed as Durham PreK sites.

A key element of Durham County's investment is supporting higher salaries for early childhood teachers. With higher salaries, Durham PreK hopes to attract the most qualified teachers as well as reduce the high turnover experienced in early childhood classrooms. All B-K licensed teachers in Durham PreK classrooms will be paid on Durham Public Schools' (DPS) salary schedule. Durham PreK teacher assistants will also receive at a minimum DPS' certified staff pay.

CCSA's Durham PreK team is very excited to be part of Durham's innovative vision for preparing Durham's youngest for success and enriching the early childhood community in Durham. 



ANOTHER A.S.K. IN THE BOOKS!


On February 24th, CCSA hosted 764 early childhood professionals from across North Carolina at the 46th annual Advancing Skills and Knowledge (A.S.K.) Conference. The conference offered more than 70 innovative learning sessions in a relaxed yet creative environment. This annual event allows teachers, directors and administrators to step back from their daily grind and open themselves to new and creative ways of inspiring children's learning. Participants meet to share ideas and rejuvenate their creativity; translating ideas into solutions to implement in classrooms.

The event, presented this year with a Reggio learning thread in collaboration with the North Carolina Reggio Emilia Collaborative, is an affordable learning opportunity for professionals interested in teaching. The conference has a long history of presenting sessions that support the key ingredients of school readiness: nurturing healthy social emotional development; enhancing language and early literacy skills; developing early mathematical skills and problem solving; improving intellectual development and ensuring physical health and safety. In addition to the Reggio specialty CEU, noted educators Michael Bonner and Stuart Stotts presented key sessions.

For many years the conference was known as *Day for Day Care*. It began in 1974 as a community fair sponsored by the Orange County Child Care Coalition. In 1976 the first *Day Care and Early Education Institute* was sponsored by the Durham Day Care Council. From the combined humble beginnings of these two county level events, the A.S.K. Conference has matured into an outstanding opportunity for

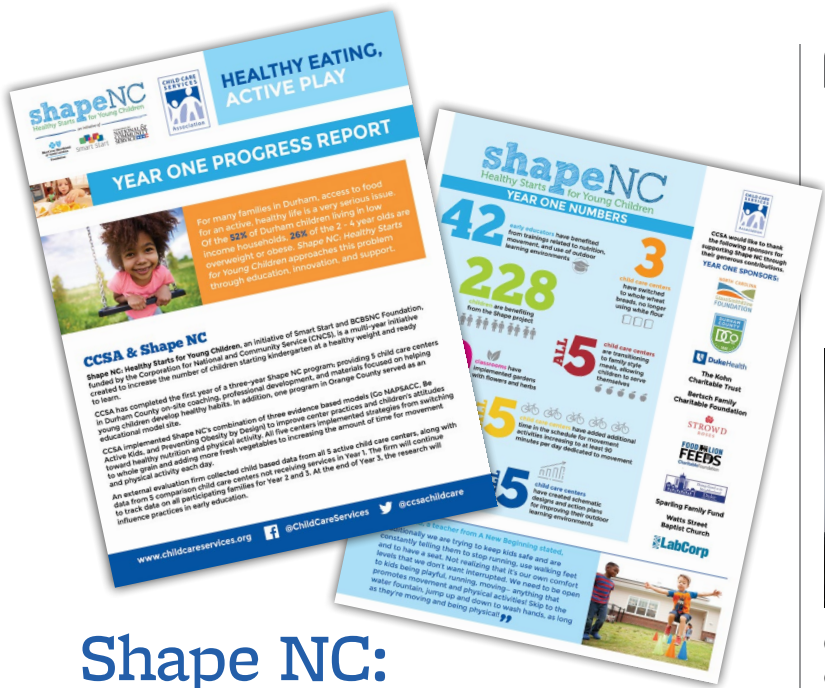


educators from all over North Carolina to gain inspiration and hone their skills and knowledge around effective teaching and developmentally appropriate practice.

The planning committee works hard to adapt the workshop content each year as research expands our knowledge about children's learning and brain development. For example, through research we know that kindergarten teachers list social emotional competence as a critically important part of school readiness and as the number one reason for recommending kindergarten grade retention. Children may struggle with learning if they enter kindergarten unable to relate well to their teachers and peers, and are unable to manage anger and other negative emotions. In response, the conference features numerous sessions that focus upon supporting healthy social emotional development. 

This annual event allows teachers, directors and administrators to step back from their daily grind and open themselves to new and creative ways of inspiring children's learning.





NC Farm to Preschool Network Advisory Committee Member



LISA MENNA
Senior Manager of Meal Services,
Child Care Services Association

A Philadelphia native, I have called North Carolina home since 1995. I chose North Carolina, and the Triangle region in particular, as I was finishing up studies at The New England Culinary Institute in Vermont. North

Carolina's natural abundance and burgeoning food scene made it an easy decision. It gave me the opportunity to learn from some of the best chefs and business owners while developing my own skills. The earlier part of my career focused on fine dining in restaurants and catering and took me to the NC coast where I was able to reopen a restaurant as executive chef in Southport, NC and operate a personal chef and catering service in Wilmington, NC. A decision in 2007 to take a position in an assisted living facility gave me a very different perspective on my profession. I learned how to adapt the skills I had learned to a much different setting along with some challenges. I chose cooking and the foodservice industry as a career because I loved to cook and feed people (and eat!). Better yet, I could see a future that could take many forms, and I discovered a whole new aspect in a job that emphasized service and nurturing. It helped change the focus of my work and gave me a direction that felt more in line with my personal beliefs and principles. That led me to Child Care Services Association when I returned to Durham, NC in 2009.

CCSA gave me the opportunity to join an agency that had worked for years on improving meals served to children in child care settings with a commitment to long-term benefits, nutrition education, and scratch cooking. I've worked on expanding CCSA's reach in Durham County, with the first effort at a central kitchen outside the original Chapel Hill kitchen that has operated since 1989. By mid-2017, we expanded in Wake county with a third kitchen operating in Raleigh. In the process, I've had the chance to continue to increase both our use and children's awareness of fresh, local foods while getting to witness the positive changes it can make in young lives.

Shape NC: Healthy Starts for Young Children

DID YOU KNOW?

- Children enrolled in child care may consume between 50% and 100% of their Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) while in care. Child care programs have a chance to provide the foundation for a healthy life, in terms of food consumption and levels of activity.
- In addition, parents often look to their child's teachers for education and support. Teachers as well as parents need to have basic knowledge about nutritional foods, physical activity and a healthy lifestyle that support children's healthy development and learning.

CCSA is implementing the Shape NC project to increase the number of children starting kindergarten at a healthy weight. The program promotes healthy eating and active play for children from birth-5 years



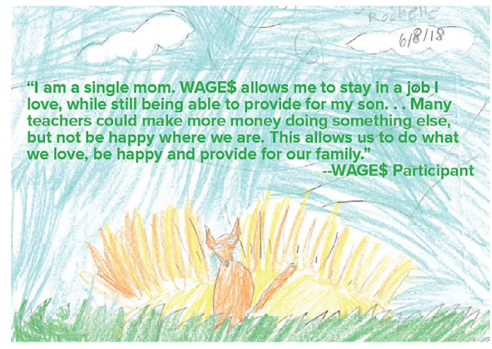
old by working with child care programs to instill healthy behaviors early on, creating a solid foundation for a healthy life. Shape NC integrates multiple research-based models to provide an in-depth approach to childhood

obesity prevention. It combines evidence-based programs to create a comprehensive approach in partnership with the following statewide programs: **Be Active Kids®**, **Preventing Obesity by Design** and the **Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care**.

To support the Shape NC project, click [here](#) and then click Donate Now. Your gift to Shape NC will help build healthy foundations for children in Durham and Orange counties, and will be matched 100% through a grant from the Corporation for National Community Service.

For more information about Shape NC's progress in its first year, click [here](#).

I am WAGES®



www.childcareservices.org



Free Toolkit & Print Resources

Now Available: Sesame Street Storybook

Using the story of Lily, a resilient, hopeful Muppet whose family is experiencing homelessness, Sesame Street developed a set of [free, bilingual resources for children and families experiencing homelessness and the providers who serve them](#).

Now, Sesame Street is making available hard copies of the storybook “We Got This!” In the story, Lily meets a mama and baby bird who have lost their nest. Lily and her new Sesame Street friends get a chance to offer help and hope. The storybook, as well as other free educational resources, is available by clicking on the link and filling in the order form. Resources will be shipped to you within 1-2 weeks.

[Order Sesame Street Storybook on Homelessness.](#)



Early Childhood Homelessness

This report by the U.S. Department of Education ([previously issued by the Administration for Children and Families](#) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) provides updated state-by-state data and information on early childhood homelessness. It finds that 1,260,254—or one in 19—children under six years old experienced homelessness in 2015-2016.

[See the profiles here.](#)

NC Receives \$4.5M Early Childhood Grant

North Carolina has been awarded a \$4.5-million preschool development grant, Governor Roy Cooper recently announced. The grant will help North Carolina improve the health, safety, and developmental and academic readiness of young children across the state.



The money will go toward a needs assessment and planning process for the state’s early learning system, setting goals for children from birth through age 8. It will also support family outreach efforts, and provide early childhood teachers with training and resources.

New Guide Assists Employers in Creating Family Friendly Workplaces that Support Children’s Healthy Development

A new [NCECF guide](#) for employers aims to create more family-friendly workplaces across North Carolina to help employers attract and retain talent and to improve health and well-being for children—the state’s future workforce.



As part of the Family Forward NC initiative, the [Guide to Family Forward Workplaces](#) provides tools for employers of all sizes with practical tips for selecting and implementing 16 family-friendly workplace practices such as flexible scheduling, accommodations for pregnant workers, and paid parental leave.

- [Download](#) the Guide
- [Download](#) the press release
- [Listen](#) to the Public News Story about the Guide
- [Watch](#) the video


2019 CCR&R Institute

On March 12th and 13th, child care resource and referral agencies from across the state (62 in all) will gather for the annual professional development event for administrators, consumer education specialists, professional development and technical assistance staff at the Greensboro Marriott Downtown!

The NC CCR&R Institute will be two days of meetings, trainings and networking for 175 CCR&R staff and partners. Sessions will involve current issues in child development such as services for homeless children, helping child care providers become better business people, ThinkBabies™ advocacy initiative, paid family leave, challenging behaviors, helping children cope with crises, the Every Student Succeeds Act, family separation and strengthening resilience, implicit bias in early childhood settings and much, much more.

The opening plenary speaker is Dr. Kristi Snuggs, Deputy Director of the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education. Wednesday's keynote is Dr. Walter Gilliam, Director of the Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy at the Yale University Child Study Center. Other national presenters include staff from Save the Children, UNC Greensboro, The Abecedarian Education Foundation and Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center.

Tuesday night's welcome reception is being held at the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro where attendees will have an opportunity to participate in a historic "Lunch Counter" tour!

We look forward to telling you about the Institute in our next newsletter. 



Dr. Kristi Snuggs



Dr. Walter Gilliam



Think Babies™ NC releases public policy agenda for infants, toddlers and their families

By Elaine Zukerman, Infant/Toddler Education and Advocacy Coordinator
NC Early Education Coalition

When we support our youngest children in having the opportunity to fulfill their potential, we create the best outcomes in health, education and economic well-being for everyone in North Carolina. That's why the Think Babies™ NC public policy agenda promotes policy solutions for what all babies and families need to thrive: healthy beginnings, supported families and quality early care and learning experiences.

Brains are built, not born. During the first years of life, babies' experiences are built into their bodies—shaping brain development and building the foundation for all future learning, behavior and health. Parents play the lead role in their child's healthy development, but all parents are stretched in the earliest months and years of their child's life. Our state and our communities all have a role to play in providing parents with support they may need at this especially critical time. Policies and programs should ensure healthy beginnings at birth, support families with young children and make high-quality child care and learning environments more accessible and affordable to all parents who want them. When we support them in their earliest years, we prepare our babies to grow, learn and succeed—and our communities, workforce and economy become stronger and more productive.

Think Babies™ NC is led by the NC Early Education Coalition and a Leadership Team of state and local organizations focused on advancing public awareness and policy solutions for infants, toddlers and their families. It's time to invest in the future by making sure that all babies and families have:

Healthy beginnings:

- Make sure parents have access to health insurance by closing the coverage gap
- Adopt reasonable workplace accommodations for pregnant employees

Supported families and supportive communities:

- Increase opportunities for home visiting and parenting education programs
- Adopt paid family and medical leave for employees
- Make sure infants and toddlers benefit from their fair share of federal investments in programs that support healthy development by ensuring an accurate 2020 Census count

Access to high-quality early care and learning experiences

- Increase child care subsidy funding and change waitlist policy to expand access to high-quality, affordable infant and toddler child care
- Make sure families living in child care deserts have access to high-quality infant and toddler child care
- Ensure infants and toddlers have well educated and well compensated teachers with the skills needed to support healthy development

It's time for big ideas, and most importantly, bold actions. We need everyone—policymakers, business leaders and all community members—to Think Babies™ and focus on our youngest citizens. To learn more about the issues on our agenda and how to get involved, please visit

<https://www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org/think-babies.html>. 





IN MEMORIAM: Edward Zigler the “father of Head Start”

Sharing from a blog by [Alyssa Haywoode](#),
February 11, 2019

We join our friends and colleagues in remembering Ed Zigler and his incredible leadership and commitment to young children and families.

Zigler was “a psychologist and children’s advocate who was a principal architect of the Head Start program in the 1960s,” [the Washington Post reports](#). Zigler “called for schools to be neighborhood social service centers, and advised every president from John F. Kennedy to Barack Obama...”

“An eminent and rigorous scholar, Zigler was Sterling Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Yale University,” a [Yale news release](#) says. “He was passionate that science should be in the service of the public interest...”

The Post adds this Zigler quote:

“I remember when I was in Washington they kept trying to get me to say whether I was a Republican or a Democrat,” [Zigler] told the Progressive magazine in 2002. “I just said, my politics are children. That’s all I know anything about.”

In 2005, Yale’s Bush Center was renamed the Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy. Walter Gilliam, the current director of the center, said on Twitter that Zigler was a “titan in the field of developmental science,” and a mentor to many.

“I will miss him dearly. I learned so much from him. I wasn’t finished,” Gilliam wrote.

Dr. Gilliam will be the keynote speaker at the 2019 CCR&R Institute in Greensboro March 12 & 13. <#>

NC Pre-K one of only two state preschool programs in the nation that measure teaching quality and meet standards

By Mandy Ableidinger, January 18, 2019

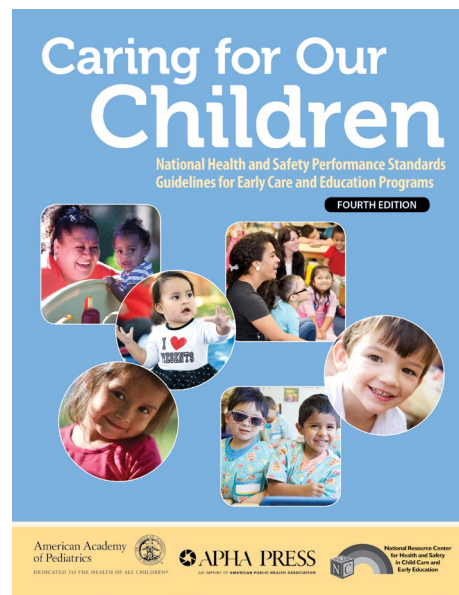


NC Pre-K provides high-quality preschool to eligible four-year-olds in North Carolina. The state’s preschool program scored significantly better than the average state preschool program on a recent nationwide assessment of preschool quality. NC Pre-K scores well on having rigorous, well-articulated.

Notably, North Carolina is:

- One of only two state preschool programs in the nation that measure and meet standards for high quality teaching;
- One of only nine programs judged to have effective curriculum;
- One of only 14 programs that meet criteria for high quality professional development; and
- One of only 16 programs judged to make data-driven decisions.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL STORY](#)



Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards 4th Edition [Paperback]

American Academy of Pediatrics,
American Public Health Association,
National Resource Center for Health and Safety
in Child Care and Early Education

<http://nrckids.org/CFOC> (scroll down to CFOC4 to download the pdf version)

<https://shop.aap.org/caring-for-our-children-national-health-and-safety-performance-standards-4th-edition-paperback/>

DESCRIPTION

- The fourth edition contains guidelines on the development and evaluation of the health and safety of children in early care and education settings
- Features 10 chapters of more than 650 standards and dozens of appendixes with valuable supplemental information, forms, and tools

KEY FEATURES

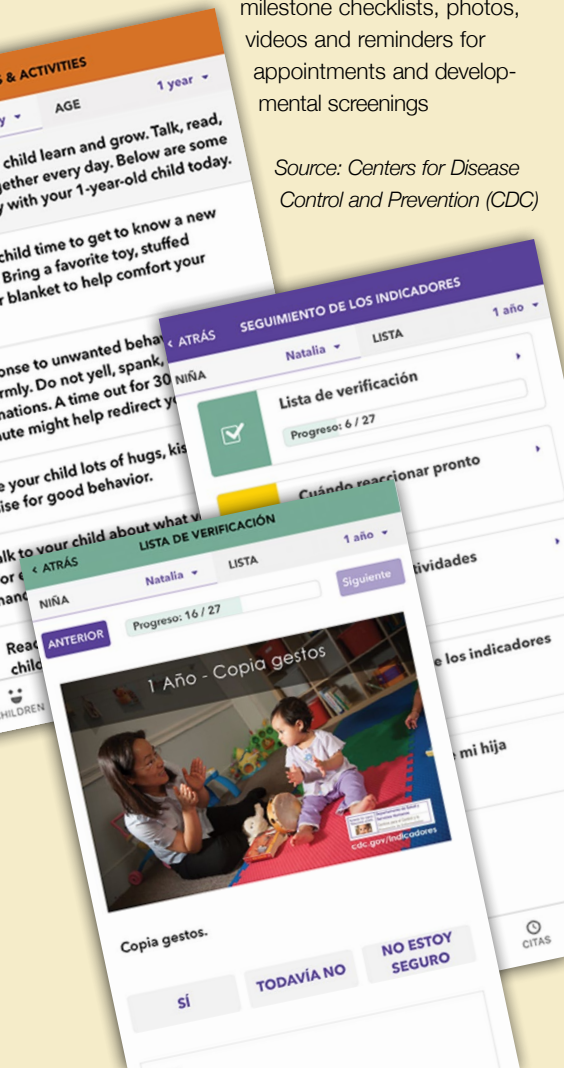
- More than 100 updated standards and appendixes
- Updated appendixes, including Signs and Symptoms Chart, Recommended Immunization Schedule, and Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care
- Completely revised and updated topics on environmental health, infectious diseases, and nutrition <#>



CDC's Milestone Tracker App—Now Available in Spanish

The CDC recently made its [Milestone Tracker app available in Spanish](#) (October 2018). This free mobile app includes resources made available through the [Learn the Signs Act Early](#) program. The app has a user friendly interface and helps parents track their child's developmental progress from ages 2 months through 5 years with milestone checklists, photos, videos and reminders for appointments and developmental screenings

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers Online Solutions Center

The National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers just announced its



new [Online Solution Center](#). Use it to explore new tools and resources that can help you advance prenatal-3 policies in our state and community.

From Duke's Center for Child and Family Policy:

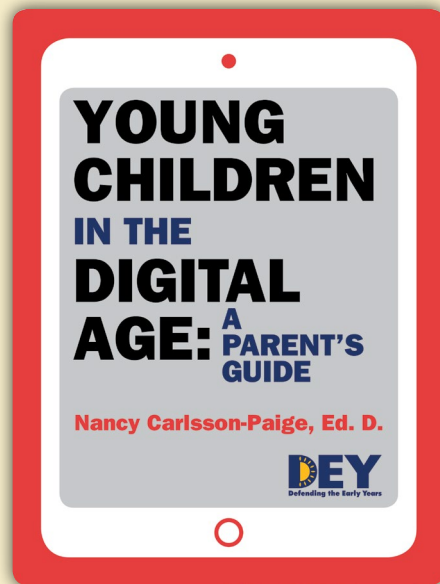
[Evaluation of North Carolina's Smart Start and NC Pre-K Programs: Follow-Up through Eighth Grade](#)



HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2019

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation has prepared [new poverty guidelines](#). Many programs across the federal government, as well as state governments and non-profit organizations, rely on these guidelines to determine family eligibility for systems and services. The 2019 poverty guidelines account for the 2.4 percent increase in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index between calendar years 2017 and 2018.

Select the link for the guidelines and additional information: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>



Young Children in the Digital Age: A Parent's Guide

This [new brief published by Defending the Early Years](#) (November 2018) offers families and preschool teachers guidance about healthy child development in the digital age. Through research and case stories, the brief discusses how the over use of screen media has affected how children play and covers six core ideas in early child development, followed by practical ways to implement these ideas in the home or classroom.

Source: *Defending the Early Years* (DEY)

NAEYC's Power to the Profession (P2P) Draft

NAEYC has released a new draft of their P2P Decision Cycles 3, 4, and 5 (as well as a first draft of Decision Cycle 6). These decision cycles, which are part of an effort to define a framework of competencies, qualifications, and compensation for ECE professionals, have been revised based on feedback from the field, including the Ideal Learning Roundtable.



[REVIEW THE LATEST DRAFT](#)

Read [the draft](#), review the additional resources, share with your colleagues, and complete the [online survey](#).

Child Care Services Association congratulates SMART START for 25 years of serving North Carolina's youngest children and their families!



SUPPORT CCSA

Whether through helping low-income families afford quality child care, child care referrals, salary supplements for our underpaid early childhood educators or educational scholarships to allow the men and women who teach our young children to continue their own education, CCSA is dedicated to ensuring that our children grow up happy, healthy and ready to succeed. We can't do it without you!

Please consider giving to CCSA online at www.childcareservices.org/support-us or by calling Kara Shultz at (919) 967-3272. Checks may be mailed to CCSA, PO Box 901, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Thank you!

Understanding the Early Education Essentials

The Ounce and the UChicago Consortium on School Research worked together to better understand what high-performing early childhood education programs look like. Their research is grounded in the idea that six essentials are critical to supporting a healthy and high-performing environment:

This work culminated in the **Early Education Essentials**—a new measurement tool that early education providers can use to measure where their program falls along each of the six essentials and provides the data and tools they need to improve and monitor results to create better outcomes for our most vulnerable children.

Most recently, researchers from the Ounce and UChicago Consortium conducted a qualitative research study interviewing families, teachers, and leaders at several test sites to further refine the tool.

See the report here at <https://www.theounce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/18-1-Ounce-Early-Ed-Report-Final-web-Single-Pgs.pdf>.



Here Are the Six Essentials of the Early Education Essentials Framework and Surveys:

- EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS:** School/center leaders are strategically focused on children's development and early achievement. They nurture trust, collective understanding and responsibility for excellence and improvement among all staff and families.
- COLLABORATIVE TEACHERS:** Teachers are committed to the school/center, build strong relationships with colleagues, and work together to continuously improve teaching and children's learning.
- INVOLVED FAMILIES:** Staff develop strong, collaborative relationships with families and actively support their engagement with the program and children's learning.
- SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT:** School/center is a physically and emotionally safe and engaging environment. Staff hold high expectations for children's social-emotional and academic learning, coupled with nurturing, individualized support for children and families.
- AMBITIOUS INSTRUCTION:** Teachers and staff provide consistently engaging, effective, rigorous, and developmentally appropriate curriculum and instruction.
- PARENT VOICE:** Parents feel respected by all staff and included as knowledgeable partners in their children's early learning and development, and have influence over programming.



CHILD CARE SERVICES ASSOCIATION
PO Box 901
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

(919) 967-3272
(919) 967-7683

www.childcareservices.org
facebook.com/ChildCareServices/
twitter.com/ccsachildcare?lang=en
[@ccsachildcare](https://www.instagram.com/ccsachildcare)
[/company/child-care](https://www.linkedin.com/company/child-care)

The CCSA Communicates newsletter contains links to other websites and news articles. These links represent just a few examples of the numerous reference materials currently available to the public. The opinions expressed in any articles or web pages do not necessarily reflect the positions or policies of Child Care Services Association. The inclusion of resources should not be construed or interpreted as an endorsement of any private organization or business listed herein.