

Celebrating the Legacy

1993-2013

Our Vision

We believe that all children and their families can reach their full potential when surrounded by a united and supportive community.

The Down East Partnership for Children



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A Bleak Past, a Bold Vision



When DEPC was incorporated in 1993, the idea of a system of early education was not something that most people considered. There were child care centers and family child care homes located in the two counties but the quality was low (2 centers held the highest North Carolina rating based primarily on health, safety and space standards) and there were only 3,911 regulated slots for 7,345 children under 6 with working families. Most family homes were unregulated with untrained staff and usually served more children than allowed by the state. There was also no developmental day care for children with special needs and most typical providers were unwilling to care for this population.

Although some training and technical assistance was available through the community colleges, early intervention and Head Start, there was still a shortage of well trained child care providers. A day care association also provided limited training and, while there was a local Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC), their membership was mostly elementary school teachers.

With no child care resource and referral agency to collect local data and coordinate training, there was limited local leadership or political will in support of quality child care. By 1992 the Nash-Edgecombe community local leaders had emerged. With technical assistance from Project Uplift in Greensboro and support from a planning grant from the National Center for Economic Development and Law (NCEDL), they began developing a resource & referral agency. They were ultimately successful and a Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) was the first program in the newly formed DEPC.

Although there was strong support for school readiness, the schools were not connected to child care programs and the idea of an early care and education system was not a consideration for most people including the child care providers and schools. While there were individual teachers or schools that offered minimal transition activities, there was no system-wide transition focus especially in relation to linking with child care. Although there were private preschools, there were very few public pre-K programs, limiting access to early education to those families who could afford to pay or

were lucky enough to qualify for subsidized care.

Both county school systems had just ended a long, often emotionally charged, merger process, which resulted in Rocky Mount, the area's largest city and located in both counties, merging with Nash County to become Nash-Rocky Mount Schools. The rest of Edgecombe reorganized into the new Edgecombe County Schools. This process left both counties with lingering negative feelings, related to the issues of race and class and geographic divides.

There was little collaboration between family service organizations with much overlapping and duplication of services and many gaps. Access to services was also difficult. There was no centralized information of available services and transportation was an issue since both counties were large and services were clustered around Rocky Mount and the two county seats.

While both social service departments were allocated funding by North Carolina for subsidized child care, there was often difficulty getting the funds "out the door." In 1993, Nash County social services reverted 11.8% of their funding due to fluctuation in demand and the state's method of allocation, while Edgecombe County involuntarily returned 8.4% due to the limited number of staff administering the program. At the same time Nash County started a waiting list indicating a growing need for additional funding.

After incorporation, DEPC applied for and received Smart Start funding in 1994 and began to build a system of services to ensure that every child and family in Nash and Edgecombe Counties receives the education and other related health and social services necessary for them to achieve economic success. (DEPC Mission Statement, 1994) While this first mission statement has evolved over time, the original intent and purpose of that early statement remains the same—To build a strong foundation for children and families by advocating and supporting both high quality early care and education and a coordinated system of community resources. (DEPC Mission Statement, 2011)



"Why your county?"

"to build a universal system of family services that is comprehensive, synergistic, integrated, preventive, family centered/family driven, developmental, flexible, sensitive to culture and race, accessible, school-linked and outcome-oriented."

(Edgecombe-Nash Smart Start Application, September 15, 1993)

The Down East Partnership for Children was incorporated as a non-profit in 1993 by a group of community leaders who were concerned about the quality of life for children and families in Edgecombe and Nash counties in North Carolina. At the time, both counties, but especially Edgecombe County, ranked low in quality of life statistics such as poverty, infant mortality, low birth weight infants, teen pregnancies and child abuse and neglect. The group of leaders, many of who were also participating in a two-county Vision 2000 strategic planning process and a Chamber-led Common Ground process to discuss racial equity, began to focus on children and child care as a way to make a long-term difference in the community.

At the same time, North Carolina, under the leadership of Governor James Hunt launched Smart Start as a statewide early childhood initiative designed to ensure that all young children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Smart Start was visionary and innovative, created as a state-funded but locally controlled system of non-profits that could design and implement early childhood education systems and strategies based on local need.

The Edgecombe-Nash community leaders understood that the only way to improve the quality of life statistics in the two-county area was to develop and change the systems of early care, education and family support. They also realized that Smart Start funding was one way to make that happen. In their first application for funding in

1993, in response to the question, "Why your county?" the writers noted that their goal was "to build a universal system of family services that is comprehensive, synergistic, integrated, preventive, family centered/family driven, developmental, flexible, sensitive to culture and race, accessible, school-linked and outcome-oriented." (Edgecombe-Nash Smart Start Application, September 15, 1993) Although the two counties did not receive Smart Start funding during the first round of grants, they did in the second round.

Early leaders who wrote the first Smart Start application shared organizational beliefs including a commitment to strategically plan, a commitment to evaluation and a belief that DEPC could potentially be a systems builder and game changer. They also valued relationship building and working across class, race and county lines and incorporated these values into the action and conscious of DEPC who modeled these values when working with the community and with community partners. Twenty years later that original goal set forth from the early leaders of DEPC is a reality.



Then and Now

Before DEPC:

- There was no early childhood system
- Quality of care was very low
- Most families were in unlicensed care
- Most child care staff were untrained
- There was very limited care for children with special needs
- There was no child care resource and referral
- There was no organized support system for parents
- Statistics and outlook for children and families were bleak
- Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 – 1993)
 - 21.4 Edgecombe
 - 9.9 Nash
- Child Abuse and Neglect (1998)
 - 296 Edgecombe
 - 338 Nash
- Graduation Rates (2005-06)
 - 56% Edgecombe
 - 60% Nash

Today:

- Early childhood is considered the anchor of the education system
- DEPC's infrastructure maximizes diverse funding sources, provides evidence based programs that are getting results
- Families are supported better than ever through a coordinated system that offers many resources
- There is a network of strong community leadership, support
- Quality of child care is high and more children are in high quality care.
- Children with disabilities are identified at a younger age and are referred to early intervention services.
- More children benefit from better nutrition and physical activity
- More children have better outcomes in school.

Impact: Then and Now

All programs and services created over the past 20 years have been based on adherence to DEPC's goals, which have ranged from the following in 1994—Universal Access to High Quality Early Education; Improved Parenting and Parent Involvement in Education; Elimination of Barriers to Services; and Improved Transition to Public School to the current goals established in 2007—Unique Support for Each Child and Family; High Quality Early Care and Education Environments; and Access to Coordinated Community Resources.

It must be noted that many programs created in the early years were time limited; discontinued for various reasons, including resolution of a particular problem; budget cuts; and narrowing DEPC's focus during a strategic planning process. Many of these programs impacted planning through lessons learned from their success and failings; some became the foundation for new initiatives; and others were spun off to other organizations after being incubated by DEPC.

Today the Partnership brings in \$6 million each year to the community from local, state and national partners to fund and facilitate the early childhood system for Nash and Edgecombe Counties.



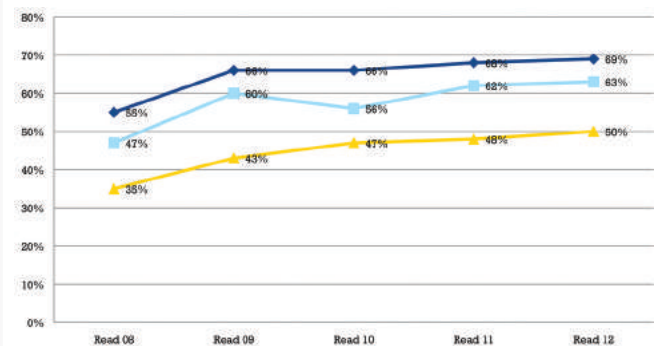
Graduation rates are increasing

In 2005-06 the graduation rate in Edgecombe was 56% and 60% in Nash. In 2012, the rate in Edgecombe was 80% and 77% in Nash-Rocky Mount.

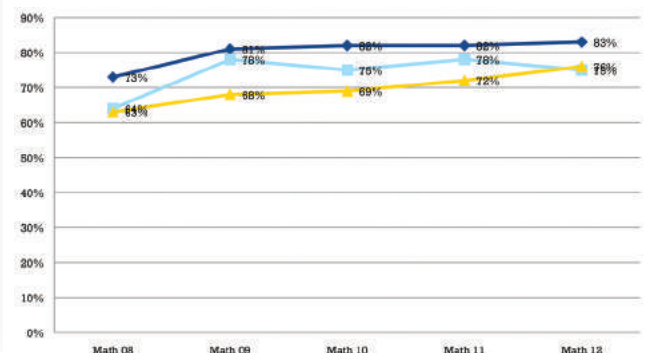
3rd grade end-of-grade test scores improving:

1 in 6 children who are not reading proficiently in third grade do not graduate from high school on time, a rate four times greater than that of proficient readers.

% of 3rd Grade Students Proficient, Reading EOG



% of 3rd Grade Students Proficient, Math EOG



Child Care Quality

In 1993:

- 6% (Edgecombe) and
- 7% (Nash) of children were in the highest quality care (AA).

In 2012:

- 74% (Edgecombe) and 73% (Nash) of children were in the highest quality care (4-5 Star).

Early Childhood Workforce

In 1996:

- 12% of teachers in centers and 11% of teachers in homes had an AA degree in any area.
- Barriers to obtaining education are numerous – time, cost and motivation.
- High turnover; average rate for both counties 32%.

In 2012:

- 68% of teachers in centers and 31% of teachers in homes have an AA degree in any area.
- 63% of teachers in centers and 23% of teachers in homes have an AA in ECE
- Teacher turnover rate in both counties is 13% for teachers participating in WAGES

Child Health

In 1993:

- 63% (Edgecombe) and 58% (Nash) of children 0-5 eligible for Medicaid received a well-child visit.

Obesity rate in 1993:

- Rate was climbing steadily and the problem largely unnoticed.

In 2012:

- 75% (Edgecombe) and 77% (Nash) of children eligible for Medicaid received a well-child visit.

Obesity today:

- 27% of children 2-4 in Edgecombe County are overweight or obese.
- 33% of children 2-4 in Nash County are overweight or obese.

A Comprehensive System of Services Making a Difference

DEPC has been working for 20 years to create specific systems changes and components (an “optimal package of services”) that when linked together and provided at sufficient scale can impact children, families and communities and create long-term change. These key systems changes and components are listed below. The impact of this systems initiative is evident in the outcomes.

- A coordinated system of family support focusing on meeting the health and well being, education and social emotional needs of children and family and empowering them to be self-sufficient. (Family support and health)
- A high quality early care and education system available and accessible to all children. (High quality early childhood education)
- Positive and seamless transitions for all children and families between care and education systems—home and care/school, care and school, grade-to-grade and school-to-school. (Vertical alignment, transitions)
- A system of schools ready to meet the unique needs of all children and families. (Ready schools)
- Communities and families engaged and working together to support all children and the early childhood education system. (Family and community engagement)

Without the backbone of the DEPC infrastructure these systems changes and components would either not exist or not be sustained. The impact would be less successful without being championed by a DEPC infrastructure that has simultaneously built the context within the community through communication and outreach efforts and identified, trained and maintained leaders who support and advocate for the work. The impact would be less evident without the back-up of organizational infrastructure

that strategically develops, implements, monitors and evaluates programs and services based on need, quality and alignment with the long-term mission and builds the capacity of the people managing the programs and processes. The impact would not exist without a financial structure that diversifies and maximizes funding sources and effectively and efficiently manages resources.

Today this system is a national model for the investment management and impact of early education systems.

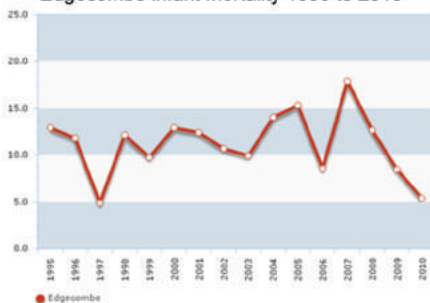


DEPC is a model for educators across the country. Visitors from Wisconsin and Oregon toured schools to learn more about DEPC's Ready Schools Initiative. Karen Ponder, national early childhood education consultant and former president of Smart Start (center) participated in the visit.

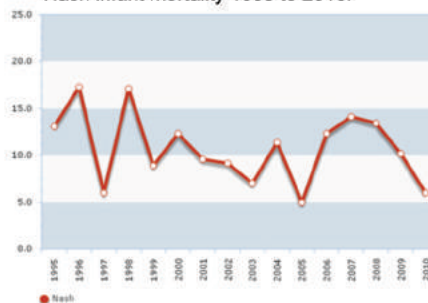
Impact Then & Now

What Has Happened Infant Mortality

Edgecombe infant mortality 1995 to 2010

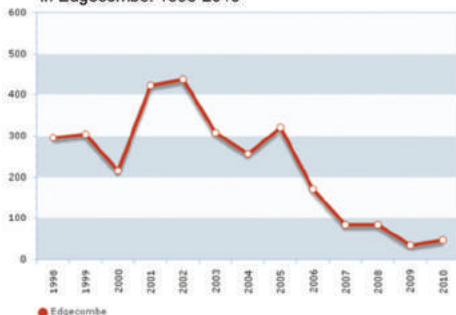


Nash infant mortality 1995 to 2010:

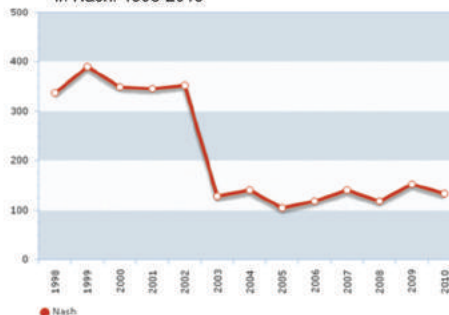


What Has Happened Child abuse/neglect

Child abuse/ neglect (substantiated) in Edgecombe: 1998-2010



Child abuse/ neglect (substantiated) in Nash: 1998-2010



Why does an early education system matter?

By age 8:

Children develop the academic and social skills that form the foundation for later learning—problem-solving, self-confidence, relationship building, curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

Children are no longer learning to read but reading to learn. It is during this period, that children get the greatest benefit from high quality educational opportunities.

Early education is the anchor of a larger system that will ensure a thriving community of workers who will meet tomorrow's demands.

20-year Road to Success...

1993

Incorporated as a non-profit without a known source of continued funding

1994

Selected to be a Smart Start partnership

Child Care Resource & Referral established as the first program

1995

Received Family Preservation/family Support funding from NC Department of Human Resources to help expand services and programs

Implemented Smart Start early care and educational programs in the community

1996

Bought, renovated and moved into the old YWCA building in downtown Rocky Mount. Today the facility is home to DEPC, its Family Resource Center and Discovery Play and Learning Park.

Community Fellows program launched

Built indoor and outdoor play space at DEPC

Began first play groups

1997

Launched school-aged child care initiative

Parent Information Center opens

Quality improvement grants were made available to local child care providers

Salary supplements for child care workers became available, later called the WAGE\$ program.

1998

Received Smart Start statewide collaboration award

Spaulding Family Resource Center opened

1999

A star rating system was created in NC to help parents identify quality child care centers and homes. The first nationally accredited child care center was created in Nash County at Church of the Good Shepherd

2000

Champions for Children, a formal network of early child care and education advocates, was created.

2001

Funded new playground at Cedar Grove Elementary

Williford Family Resource Center renovated and expanded

Launched Family Support Network of Nash and Edgecombe counties to assist families with special needs children

2002

Connect the Dots was created to help child care providers understand the relationship between quality care and a strong business plan

Launched the Child Care Home Inclusion Project (CCHIP) program to build a network of child care home providers who are trained to provide high quality child care to children with special needs

Received SPARK grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

2003

More at Four launched by Governor Easley to fund additional Pre-K classes for low-income families

2004

Edgecombe County Family Resource Center opened in Princeville

Family Home Business Institute conducts business and finance training for family child care homes

DEPC-CCR&R became the regional lead for Child Care Resource & Referral

2005

Raise the Roof Campaign and Renovations to DEPC Family Resource Center

2006

Launched Ready Communities to provide outreach to families and communities to link them to resources and services

Created a Latino & Hispanic Outreach committee



2007

Launched a system of ready schools to help individual schools implement ready schools best practices and to promote and build system support for ready schools components including family engagement, links with child care and transition practices.

2008

Implemented the Healthy Kids Collaborative composed of community, government, medical and agency leaders to identify and create policy and practice changes in the areas of physical activity and nutrition for children ages 2-4

The Faith-Based Initiative is a network of faith institutions created to expand community support for early care and education. The network engages a diverse group of churches, faith institutions and community partners

2009

Family First system developed with input from agencies and organizations in both counties.

Implemented health programs to impact the physical activity and nutrition of children, age 2-4, including classes to teach families how to eat healthy, developing the DEPC playground as an outdoor learning environment and coordinating an on-site farmers market to help local community access fresh fruits and vegetables

Transitioned Scholarship Program from targeting child care scholarships to all children, ages 0-5 to children, ages 0-3, to strengthen access and quality for infants and toddlers and establish a continuum of subsidized care with NC Pre-K and Head Start serving 4-year-old children

2010

New Places to Play and Grow maps of Nash and Edgecombe counties feature parks, farmers markets and other places for children and families to play and connect with healthy options.

Testified on DEPC's 0-8 model of services at the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Incredible Years Program began to build parenting skills and family engagement
DEPC-CCR&R became the regional referral call center for Child Care Resource and Referral

2011

Community leaders collaborated with Nash Rocky Mount Schools and Down East Partnership for Children to ensure more young children are registered for kindergarten on time through Summer Night Lights and community canvassing.

Created Ready Schools Toolkit as local, state and national resource

Implemented Circle of Parents, an evidence-based program with social-emotional focus for families with special needs children.

National Implementation Research Network developed the report "Synthesizing the Evidence for System Supports" for DEPC. This report is a review of the evidence that supports the need for the DEPC system support components as essential parts of an accountable effective early childhood system.

Shape NC launched to improve nutrition and physical activities in area child care centers.

R2 Evaluation results document strong social emotional skills, family involvement and smooth transitions improve student learning K-2.

2012

Implemented literacy-based initiatives Reach Out and Read and Raising a Reader

Get Dinner on the Table is a tool for all busy moms and dads trying to juggle work, family and a household. It offers daily recipes that are easy dinner ideas designed to make life a little easier and avoid swinging through the drive-thru.

All Pro Dads launched to increase involvement of fathers in early education

DEPC Endowment Began

Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge funding adds new quality improvement initiative.

2013

Discovery Play and Learning Park redesigned and renovated

Became United Way Agency

Received the Stewardship Award from the N.C. Center for Nonprofits.

Celebrated 20 years of success.

G 20 YEARS



ACCESS!

20 Reasons to Celebrate 20 Years

1 A Strong Vision

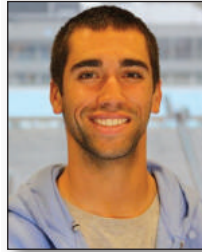
DEPC was incorporated in 1993 as a non-profit by a group of community leaders who were concerned about the quality of life for children and families in Edgecombe and Nash.

We are grateful to the parents, grandparents, providers, teachers, business, faith and community leaders in the twin counties who had the vision to create DEPC and who have worked tenaciously to create and sustain the system of early education.



2 20-year Graduates

Benton Moss is a 20-year-old who began his academic journey in child care at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Rocky Mount. Today he is a Morehead Scholar and a baseball pitcher for UNC where he is studying economics and business. He is a "graduate" of DEPC's effort to provide a strong foundation for young children through high quality early care and education. The day school at the Church of the Good Shepherd participated in services to enhance teacher education and quality improvements and has been a great model of high quality care and education.



3 Help for Working Parents

Thanks to the Down East Partnership for Children Scholarship Program Lynnette Hines' son was able to participate in high quality child care while she worked and pursued her degree. She was also able to participate in a variety of classes that ranged from parenting classes to money management.



4 A Healthy Resource

Healthy children are more successful learners and grow up to be more employable adults. Obese and overweight children are likely to suffer health consequences not only during childhood and adolescence, but also throughout their lives.

"This organization has grown into an important resource for residents and other agencies who need to find ways to help clients or just their neighbor," said Karen Ramsey, retired from Nash Health Dept.



5 High Quality Child Care

Down East's economy depends on high quality child care and the small businesses that care for children each day as parents are working.

Linda Knight, Owner and Director of Think & Grow Child Care Center, knows first hand the impact of high quality child care in a community and the importance of getting children the best start in school and life.

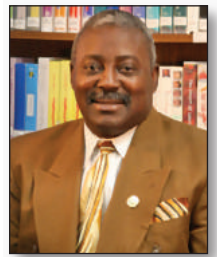
"What happens in a child's life before they even turn three is critical to that child's future development," Knight said.



6 Crime Prevention

Edgecombe County Sheriff James Knight knows first hand the impact of a high quality early education and the importance of providing families the resources they need to be good parents. And he knows what happens without it.

"It is really important that kids start learning at an early age. If they keep that interest all through school then I will be less likely to see them in a negative aspect."



7 Resource for Teachers

A child's early learning and development depend on many factors to be successful. The education of child care providers and teachers directly impacts children's ability to grow and develop to their fullest potential.

"I think people have come to depend on the partnership as a nucleus for things happening and for spreading and implementing positive things," said Katherine Wilder, Nash Community College Instructor.



8 Community Partners

"They (DEPC) are partners with this community and they care about this community. I don't think people realize how important they are," said Georgia Person, head of the Down East Neighborhood Association.

She cites the Discovery Play and Learning Park, the farmer's market, community garden and the Family Resource Center at DEPC as keys to building a stronger and healthier community.



9 Sustaining the Legacy

"Now that we are at the 20 year anniversary of the organization, we now have the opportunity to see what was planted 20 years ago come to bear now," said Eric Evans, Edgecombe County Assistant Manager and DEPC board chair. An Endowment Fund was created to sustain DEPC's success and sustain its legacy for years to come.



10 Good Steward of the Public's Trust

DEPC was honored by the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits with the 2013 Nonprofit Sector Stewardship Award. This statewide award recognizes nonprofits with excellent practices in ethics, accountability, and stewardship of the public's trust and resources.

"DEPC was selected because it offers a model of a nonprofit that converts a potentially devastating challenge into an opportunity to strengthen its organization and its impact," said Jane Kendall, president of the N.C. Center for Nonprofits.

11 Strength in Diversity

The strength of the partnership is in its diversity - crossing racial and class lines to improve the quality of life for children and families. It's this same diversity and strength of our community that will help move the partnership forward to the next 20 years," said Tim Wilson, partner with Poyner & Spruill and DEPC board member. DEPC created a 20/20 Challenge campaign to reach out to all the many stakeholders involved and ask for small contributions to ensure the vitality of the organization.



12 Putting Families First

"The Partnership helps to strengthen families and meet them where they are," said Sonja Person, DEPC's Family Services Specialist. "One of the ways we help to strengthen families is help them to cope with challenges." In an effort to link families to programs and services offered in Nash and Edgecombe Counties, DEPC launched a free new Family First Resource Community Database. This database is available online at www.depc.org and offers a search option that will link them to a variety of resources from shelter, food, clothing to story times at the local libraries.



13 Support from all Ages

Hallee Holloman may only be 10 years old but has a determination that exceeds her age for her dedication to improve the lives of children with special needs as well as improve the community. For the second year Hallee organized a fundraising effort to benefit DEPC. She recently presented the check to DEPC and says she would like funding to go toward efforts that will support children with special needs. Her inspiration comes from her family and her brother, Conner, who has Down Syndrome.



14 An Act of Faith

Twenty years ago a group of people came together in an act of faith around one mission - "to build a universal system of family services that is comprehensive, synergistic, integrated, preventive, family centered/family driven, developmental, flexible, sensitive to culture and race, accessible, school-linked and outcome-oriented." (*DEPC Smart Start Application, 1993*) Today we are achieving that mission with the help of a network of multiple communities of faith. "Here at DEPC it doesn't matter who or where you are from, what your status may be - there is a leveling of the playing field and it gives children the opportunity to be successful early on in life," said Xavien Harrison, Community Fellow & faith-based partner.



15 Community Partners

Williford Elementary Principal Roderick Tillery Sr. first learned about DEPC as a parent and today is leading his school as a partner in education. "As a Ready School, Williford Elementary stands ready to make sure from Kindergarten through the 5th grade our students are ready for 21st century learning to have 21st century tools and also 21st century educators ready to use all the tools at their disposal. The DEPC is truly a partner in education and we look forward to being their partner for many years to come."



16 A National Model

DEPC is considered a model of some of the best practices in early care and education and in connecting a community to meet the needs of its young children and families.

"They have been very critical in convening key stakeholders - everything from community members up to policymakers to work together - to work collaboratively - to truly make Nash and Edgecombe counties healthier for their children and their families," said Joanne Lee, Senior Project Officer of Active Living by Design.



17 A Circle of Parents

Phyllis Richardson knows the importance of family support and connecting families to the resources they need to be successful.

"A staff member recognized that my youngest child was developmentally delayed which later was diagnosed as autism. I thank God they (DEPC staff) were there to help me and my husband because we had no clue what it (autism) is and I'm glad to say that now she has blossomed."



18 Continuing Success

DEPC monitors and evaluates programs systematically and in an open and collaborative way so that we are constantly learning and changing along with our stakeholders and the needs of our community. As such, programs are evaluated within the context of the long-term strategic plan for the Partnership and the community. Today we have a model of services that is evidence-based, provides a high rate of return on investment and is often cited as a national model.



19 Thankful

As we express our gratitude we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

— John F. Kennedy

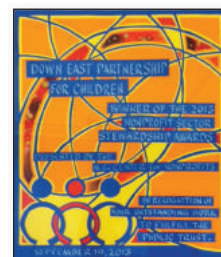
We are so thankful for the thousands of volunteers, community leaders, parents, teachers and grandparents of our community who make a difference every day to improve the lives of young children and launch them as healthy, lifelong learners.



20 Leadership at Every Level

We are grateful to the parents, grandparents, providers, teachers, business, faith and community leaders in the two counties who had the vision to create DEPC and who have worked tenaciously to build and sustain the system of early education. Together we will continue to move forward to improve the quality of life for children and families.

DEPC is proof that working together we can make our vision a reality and that we are stronger together.



Where do we go from here: A look to the next 20 years

The future of Nash and Edgecombe counties depends on how we treat our children today. We've had a great track record of success for 20 years, but we haven't crossed the finished line yet because this is a journey where every child and every family counts. So, DEPC will continue to move forward and scale up the optimal package of services needed for all children in the community to be successful.

Here is an overview of what we see ahead in the next 20 years:

1. Increase family engagement in children's early literacy.
2. Third-graders in Nash and Edgecombe counties will have higher standardized reading and math scores and lower special education placement.
3. More children will get more active play and will have greater access to healthy foods and well child checks.
4. More community members and leaders will advocate for education policy and best practices related to children's social-emotional development and the impact on learning by the end of grade 3.
5. More area businesses will continue to develop understanding of the need to "promote/allow" their workforce to participate in the life of their children's school.
6. High quality early childhood education will be assumed routinely as a part of economic development, part of the community's economic future. There will be greater community understanding of high quality and high expectations for quality.
7. More employers will understand that a sustainable workforce is dependent on long-term workforce development. There will be improved family support policies and practices such as flex time, dependent care and staff wellness.
8. Continue the use of data to ask the "right questions" and solve real problems in order to be always aware of the next point on the horizon, both evaluation and programmatic.
9. More children will be in stable, high-quality care that promotes children's development through small group sizes, stable, nurturing caregivers with training and education in child development; and stimulating and age-appropriate activities and daily routines.
10. Child care directors and teachers maintain their certification and child care programs will continue to increase and sustain high star-level ratings.
11. More community volunteers will serve as leaders in programs and services.
12. Local government and schools will work together as a way to create venues for an active lifestyle for children and families, build community and family engagement, ensure smoother transitions, and model engaging environments.
13. Build social-emotional connections—Create a "critical mass" of children who have adult caregivers trained in the same social-emotional support model as the children.
14. Build family engagement connections—Both school systems will continue to create standardized transition plans and work closely with child care providers and families to bridge the Kindergarten divide.
15. Secure funding from multiple sources to strategically build components and the system, including increasing core mission and infrastructure support.
16. Technology will help link more families to programs and services.
17. Communities of faith will continue to strengthen their partnership with DEPC.
18. Improve downtown revitalization through the Discovery Play and Learning Park and utilize it as a model outdoor learning environment for the community and active living by design.
19. Sufficient dosage of services will make an impact and create change. Explore utilizing targeted "zones" as a strategy to get a sufficient dosage of the optimal bundle.
20. Strengthen DEPC's backbone support services to sustain continuing community improvement.

Our Mission

To build a strong foundation for children and families by advocating and supporting both high quality early care and education and a coordinated system of community resources.

Our Vision

We believe that all children and their families can reach their full potential when surrounded by a united and supportive community.



The Down East Partnership for Children Endowment Fund



The Down East Partnership for Children of Nash and Edgecombe Counties is a non-profit organization located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. DEPC is "Committed to launching every child as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of the third grade".

Because today's children are tomorrow's leaders, parents and workers, the DEPC believes everyone has a stake in making sure that all children have the experiences they need to thrive. By building a community that supports the unique needs of each child and family, creating and increasing access to high quality early care and education, and surrounding each child and family with coordinated community resources, together DEPC and our communities can give children the very best opportunities they need to grow and learn.

Gifts may be made in many forms, and gifts of all sizes are most welcome!

The Down East Partnership for Children Endowment Fund is invested and administered through the North Carolina Community Foundation.

How can you support the DEPC Endowment Fund?

You can ensure the continuation of our mission in many ways: your gift or pledge to the fund; your gifts in memory or in honor of friends and family; or your thoughtfully planned bequest. All contributions support our goal to build a strong endowment for the future. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Some types of gifts for you to consider include:

Cash Gifts

The simplest and most convenient way of participating in the fund is through cash gifts, which may take the form of pledges over a period of years. All such gifts qualify for maximum income tax deductions.

Securities or Real Estate

Gifts of appreciated securities and real property may provide important tax advantages to donors who have held assets for a long period of time. The full fair market value of such gifts may be deductible as a charitable contribution. In the case of restricted or closely held stock, real estate or other unusual assets, the proposed gift may require an appraisal, a review by the North Carolina Community Foundation counsel and approval of the NCCF Board of Directors.

Wills or Bequests

There are many ways to remember the Down East Partnership for Children Endowment Fund in a will. After providing for heirs, a donor can specify that some or all of the remaining assets be given to the Down East Partnership for Children Endowment Fund, thereby achieving a lasting purpose and reducing the taxable portion of an estate.

Life Insurance

The Down East Partnership for Children Endowment Fund may be named as the owner and beneficiary of a previously existing or new life insurance policy. The donor receives an immediate tax deduction, which is generally equal to the policy's cash surrender value. All premium payments made by the donor thereafter are also tax-deductible.

Charitable Remainder Trust

A donor may wish to make a contribution to charity but need all of his or her income for current expenses. The donor can leave property to the Down East Partnership for Children Endowment Fund at death or give the assets now, subject to a retained income interest.

I SUPPORT THE Down East Partnership for Children Endowment Fund

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ for the DEPC Endowment Fund.

- ☐ Benefactor (\$10,000-up)
- ☐ Sponsor (\$5,000-9999)
- ☐ Patron (\$2500-49990)
- ☐ Sustainer (\$1,000-2499)
- ☐ Friend (\$1-999)

For more information about NCCF, contact:
Kelly Lee, Regional Associate
(252) 973-1205,
klee@nccommunityfoundation.org

www.nccommunityfoundation.org

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

If this is a matching gift, please enclose employer's matching gift form.

Please make checks payable to:

NCCF/DEPC Endowment Fund

And mail to: NC Community Foundation

PO Box 7394, Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Give online at www.nccommunityfoundation.org



Visit us on the web:
www.depc.org

Sign up for DEPC's E-newsletter:
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Connect on Linked In
Follow us on Twitter @DEPC20



Call Family First Resource Line:
(252) 985-4300 or 1-888-285-0849

Support the DEPC Endowment Fund
through the NC Community Foundation:
www.nccommunityfoundation.org

The Down East Partnership for Children (DEPC)
is a nonprofit organization that launches every
child as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of
the 3rd grade.

P.O. Box 1245 • 215 Lexington St. • Rocky Mount, NC 27802
(252) 985-4300 • www.depc.org • info@depc.org

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