

## Spring into Reading WEEK of the YOUNG CHILD

CREATING LIFELONG LEARNERS: ONE STORY AT A TIME

### Why Reading Matters

If we want to change the future of our community, reading is where it starts. Reading is the single most important way to improve your child's future. It is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. Reading also improves soft skills and builds confidence. Yet many children in Nash and Edgecombe counties are left behind, unable to achieve reading proficiency by the end of the third grade.

To change this outcome, we must work together and focus on early education and support strategies beginning at birth that put children on a pathway to grade-level reading by the end of third grade.

Down East Partnership for Children focuses on three underlying challenges that impact the reading success of young children:

- School readiness – too many children are entering kindergarten already behind and schools struggle to be ready for all children
- School attendance – too many young children are missing too many days of school
- Summer learning – too many children are losing ground academically over the summer

Research tells us that children living in poverty experience extensive learning loss in comparison to their peers that do not live in poverty. According to the National Center for Summer Learning at John's Hopkins University, two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college. And, the time spent re-teaching subjects lost over the summer has a steep financial cost as well. Help us prepare for the prevention of summer learning loss.



April 7 – June 30

Drop your books off at the Partnership or schedule a time for pickup!

We need your help!

Spring into Reading  
**BOOK DRIVE**  
CREATING LIFELONG LEARNERS: ONE STORY AT A TIME

Call us at 252-985-4300, ext 237 for more information!

### Week of the Young Child Book Drive

This year, DEPC will celebrate Week of the Young Child April 6 through 11 with an emphasis on early literacy. Please help us collect new or gently used books for children ages 0 through age 8 during this week. The drive will run through the month of June. Let us know if your organization would like to collect books as a part of this campaign. The books will be handed out to children in our community during events and through our programs. The week will also include reading events throughout the area. Please visit our website or follow us on social media for more details ([www.depc.org](http://www.depc.org)) or call us at 985-4300 to learn how you can get involved.

# FAMILY SERVICES



Use this Code to Register!

You may use this QR code to register for Family Services programs.



Family First counselors are available to offer families information on over 150 community resources including choosing quality childcare referrals for Nash and Edgecombe counties. If you need childcare options, parenting information or resources, please call Family First at 252.985.4300 ext. 220. Counselors are available Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm and Fridays 9-12 Noon.

## Circle of Parents



A support group for parents of children, ages birth to 18, with special needs. Parents can spend time connecting with each other, offering encouragement and support in caring for their special needs child. Circle meets on Monday nights from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in a hybrid format. All children in the family are invited to participate in children's activities.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Contact Sonja Person at [sperson@depc.org](mailto:sperson@depc.org)**

## Kaleidoscope® Play & Learn Groups

Caregivers and their children, under the age of 5, are invited to join us at Down East Partnership for Children in Rocky Mount, Spaulding Family Resource Center in Spring Hope, or at Edgecombe County Memorial Library in Tarboro.

**\*Groups currently meeting now - contact us!** Spend time playing and discovering ways to help our children continue learning at home. **Contact Bethany Lambeth at [blambeth@depc.org](mailto:blambeth@depc.org).**

**Kaleidoscope Play & Learn®**  
For families with children birth-5 years of age

Choose one of the following options:  
**Down East Partnership**  
 Mondays | 9:30am - 11:00am  
 Tuesdays | 9:30am - 11:00am  
**Spaulding Family Resource Center**  
 314 SPRING HOPE  
 Wednesdays | 9:30am - 11:00am

Spots are limited. Current Safety Protocols will be followed.

During each group families have free play, arts and crafts, healthy snacks, and group time.  
 Toy incentives and a possible \$25 Walmart gift card available!

Kaleidoscope Play and Learn® groups are designed for families with children ages birth to 5 who want to learn fun ideas for how to connect, nurture their child's positive social skills, and increase their family's healthy lifestyle habits!

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**APPLY for Pre-K TODAY!**  
 Visit: [www.depc.org](http://www.depc.org) Call: 252-985-4300

## NC Pre-K

NC Pre-K Applications are available in English and Spanish. Program locations are in private sites, public schools, and Head Start. Contact Family Services if you need help selecting a service provider. See the DEPC website for eligibility requirements and financial guidelines. There are no fees to families using this program.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Applications may be accessed from the DEPC web page (<https://depc.org/child-care/pre-k-information-page/>) or picked up from 215 Lexington Street in Rocky Mount.

## DEPC Scholarship Program

Offers families opportunities for assistance with child care if they are working a minimum of 30 hours per week or in school full time. This program serves children birth to age 5 and family income must fall below 85% of the state median income. Families are required to pay monthly parent fees on average of 10% of their gross income.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Applications may be printed from the DEPC web page or picked up from 215 Lexington Street in Rocky Mount. For more information, call 252-985-4300, ext. 220.

**Triple P Parenting Group Level 4 FREE**

As a participant in this group you will:

- Connect with other caregivers
- Discover new ways to be a positive parent
- Enhance your child's behavior while increasing social skills and self confidence

Open to any family in Nash or Edgecombe counties with children ages 3-6

April 29 to June 3  
 Tuesdays | 5:30-8:00pm

IN PERSON at DEPC  
 Scan the QR code to register.

**DISCOVER POSITIVE PARENTING TIPS!**

DINNER & CHILD CARE PROVIDED. WEEKLY GAS CARDS AND PLAY INCENTIVES! SPACE IS LIMITED! REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

**CONTACT** Amber Payton  
[apayton@depc.org](mailto:apayton@depc.org)

Down East Partnership for Children  
 215 Lexington Street | Rocky Mount, NC 27801 | 252-985-4300 | [www.depc.org](http://www.depc.org)

**Triple P Discussion Groups:**  
 For caregivers with children ages birth to 5.  
**Hassle Free Meal Time**  
 April 15, 2025 5:30-7:30pm

**Triple P Group:**  
 Six week course for families with children 3-8.  
 Tuesdays, April 29-June 3, 5:30-8:00pm

**Triple P Briefs:**  
 Schedule one-on-one coaching for topics of your choice



For more information on Triple P or to register for upcoming events, please contact Abbi Mullens at [amullens@depc.org](mailto:amullens@depc.org) or visit the Triple P website at <http://www.triplep-parenting.com/nLearn>

We are offering one-on-one parenting support. Call DEPC's Family First line at 252-985-4300, ext. 220 for more information.



# Recipe Cornmeal Griddle Cakes



These tasty little cakes are crispy on the outside and creamy on the inside—like a cross between grits and pancakes. And you can serve them sweet or savory (see our tips below).

### Ingredients:

- 2 large eggs
- 1 1/4 cups milk or buttermilk
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

### Instructions:

1. Crack the eggs into the bowl, add the milk or buttermilk, and mix well. Add the cornmeal, baking powder, and salt. Mix until the ingredients are just combined.
2. Put the skillet on the stove and set the heat to medium. When the skillet is hot (a drop of water flicked onto its surface should immediately sizzle and evaporate), add half the oil.
3. Use a 1/4-cup measure to add scoops of batter to the skillet, each about 2 inches wide. Cook until golden brown on the bottom, about 2 minutes, then flip and cook another 2 minutes. Transfer to a plate. Repeat with the remaining oil and batter. Serve right away.

### GET CREATIVE

- For a savory meal, serve the griddle cakes topped with shredded cheese, yogurt, salsa, and/or chopped fresh herbs.
- If you prefer sweet, serve with maple syrup, yogurt, applesauce, and/or fresh berries.

Want to see more Chop Chop Family Recipes? Visit [chopchopfamily.org](http://chopchopfamily.org).

## Check it out these recipes!

### Any Day's a Picnic Chicken Salad

Recipe from MyPlate.gov

Onion and pickle relish spice up a traditional chicken salad.

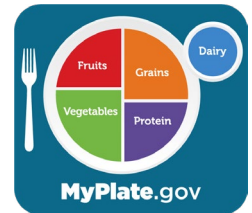
### Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups cooked chicken breast, diced
- 1/2 cup celery, chopped
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped
- 3 packages pickle relish (2 tablespoons)
- 1/2 cup light mayonnaise



### Directions

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Combine all ingredients.
3. Refrigerate until ready to serve.
4. Use within 1-2 days. Chicken salad does not freeze well.



**DID YOU KNOW...**

Edgecombe county parents spend **41%** and Nash parents spend **33%** of their household income on child care?

**We Can Help!** DEPC, Edgecombe County DSS and Nash County DSS have child care scholarships for qualifying parents.

**Contact us today!**



Choosing a child care provider is one of the hardest decisions a parent will make. A Family First Counselor can help you make an informed decision about quality, licensed care for your child. We currently serve Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Warren and Wilson Counties. **Scan this QR code for help in your search for child care!**



# Down East Partnership for Children

215 Lexington Street | Rocky Mount, NC 27801  
(252) 985-4300 | [depc.org](http://depc.org)

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Rocky Mount, NC

Down East Partnership for Children is a nonprofit organization founded in 1993. It provides a model of services focused on prevention and intervention targeting young children ages 0-8. It leverages investments from local, state and national partners to launch every child as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of the 3rd grade. For more information about DEPC, visit [www.depc.org](http://www.depc.org).



## NC SNAP-ED

This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-SNAP. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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## Mark Your Calendar

**Training Calendar:** Visit [depc.org](http://depc.org) for the latest Training Calendar for Child Care Professionals

**Circle of Parents:** Monday nights - 6 to 8 p.m.

**Kaleidoscope® Play & Learn Groups:** \*Groups run through June. For children ages 0-5 at DEPC, Spring Hope and Tarboro!

**Summer Feeding/Summer Learning**

Check [depc.org](http://depc.org) for information on Summer Feeding and Learning sites in our community.

**FORE EVERY CHILD**  
**GOLF CLASSIC**

**APRIL 25**

**LUNCH PROVIDED 12:00PM**  
All skill levels invited. Handicap not required.

**SHOTGUN START 1:00PM**  
SUPERBALL FORMAT

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place teams  
Closest to the Pin, Putting Contest and Longest Drive prizes

**THE LINKS AT COTTON VALLEY (TARBORO)**

**50/50 RAFFLE**  
\$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20

**\$360 per foursome**  
Multiple 6-tee bucket package  
\$75 INDIVIDUAL