



Attendance Matters for children of all ages

Going to school every day helps children succeed. Even missing a few days each month can make learning harder. Arriving late to school and/or checking out early adds up!

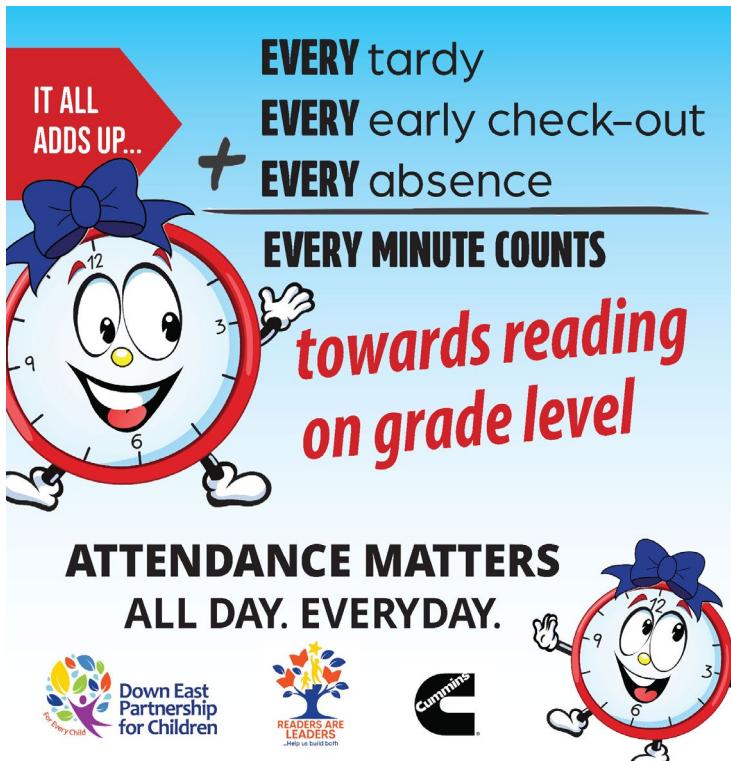
In North Carolina, a child is considered chronically absent if they miss 18 days in one school year, even if the absences are excused. Those missed days add up quickly.

Attendance matters starting in preschool. When children miss many school days, it is harder for them to learn to read, learn to play with their friends, and build other important skills. Children who are often absent in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade are much less likely to read at grade level by third grade and are more likely to keep missing school as they get older.

Going to school every day (ALL DAY) helps children build a strong routine and good habits that last.

Getting kids to school every day is a community effort. Families, schools, and community partners can work together to support regular attendance.

Every day counts. Being at school every day helps children learn, grow, and build a strong future. Show Up and Be Present EVERY DAY!



A checklist to register for NC Pre-K

Are you interested in registering your child for NC Pre-K? Your child must be four years old on or before August 31st of the current program year and must meet **one or more** of the following requirements:

- Family's gross income is at or below 75% of the State Median Income level
- Child has an identified developmental disability
- Child has Limited English Proficiency (LEP) as indicated by the family and/or child speaking limited or no English in the home
- Child has an educational need as indicated by

the child's performance results on an approved developmental screening or in an existing Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

- Child has a chronic health condition as indicated by the diagnosis from a professional health care provider
- Child and family are identified as homeless
- Child is a member of an eligible military family

To find the NC Pre-K application and checklist on DEPC's web page, visit (<https://depc.org/child-care/pre-k-information-page/>) or pick up from the DEPC office on 215 Lexington Street in Rocky Mount.



FAMILY SERVICES

AT



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



Kaleidoscope® Play & Learn Groups (16-week series)

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. Spend time playing and discovering ways to help our children continue learning at home. **To register: Contact Bethany Lambeth at blambeth@depc.org or 252-985-4300 ext. 270.**



Triple P Discussion Group:
Hassle Free Meal Time
Tuesday, March 31, 5:30-7:30pm



Triple P Group:
Six week course for families with children 3-8.
Tuesdays, April 14-May 19, 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 or visit the
Triple P website at
<http://www.triplep-parenting.com/>**

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



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.

Need help choosing a child care provider?

It is one of the hardest decisions a parent will make. We can help you make an informed decision about quality, licensed care for your child. We currently serve Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Warren and Wilson Counties.



Become a Summer Feeding Summer Learning Site

It won't be long before the school year comes to a close. Once again DEPC is excited to partner with community sites across Nash and Edgecombe counties to support children and families throughout the summer.

This year's Summer Feeding Kids Meals sponsors include Nash County Public Schools, Edgecombe County Public Schools, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. In addition to meals, selected sites will receive resources to support literacy, enrichment, and physical activity.

We are also grateful for the continued support of Cummins Engine Plant, a strong champion of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, Twin Counties Read to Rise, and summer learning efforts. Together, these partnerships help ensure that schools, faith-based organizations, and community sites can serve nutritious, in-person meals to all children 18 and under.

Interested in becoming a summer site? Join DEPC for our **Summer Feeding & Summer Learning Support Group Meetings on February 25, March 25, and April 22 from 3:30–5:00 p.m.** These sessions help new and returning sites prepare for a successful summer through shared best practices, technical support, and community connections.



Skillet Lasagna (Vegetarian)

Recipe from ChopChop Family

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil or vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, peeled and chopped
- 1 garlic clove, peeled and minced
- 2 medium zucchini, ends trimmed, diced
- 1 teaspoon dried basil or oregano
- 1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes, including the liquid
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups fresh spinach leaves, coarsely chopped
- 8 no-boil lasagna noodles, broken in half
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup chopped fresh basil leaves



Directions

1. Put the skillet on the stove and turn the heat to medium-low. When the skillet is hot, add the oil.
2. Add the onion and garlic and cook, stirring frequently, until tender, about 10-15 minutes.
3. Add the zucchini and basil or oregano and cook, covered, until the zucchini is just golden and tender, about 10-15 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes.
4. Add the tomatoes and water and stir well. Turn the heat down to low and cook, covered, for 10 minutes. Remove the lid and cook an additional 10 minutes.
5. Turn the heat off. Add the spinach and stir until just wilted.
6. Carefully slip 4 noodle pieces into the skillet, using their edges to slide them under to the bottom of the sauce. Using the spatula, push them down below the surface. Layer on another 4 noodle pieces, and then another 4, and push them all below the surface. Add the last 4 noodle pieces and spoon a little bit of the tomato mixture on top.
7. Add the ricotta, 1 tablespoon at a time, dotting the top with dollops. Sprinkle on the mozzarella and then the Parmesan cheese.
8. Reheat the skillet over low heat, cover and continue cooking until the cheese melts and the noodles are tender when you poke them with the tip of a knife, about 20 minutes. Sprinkle with the basil leaves. Turn off the heat and let the lasagna sit for 10 minutes.
9. Serve right away or cover and refrigerate up to 2 days.



HEART of DEPC

"Your support has not only helped, it has taught us the true meaning of Community."

I am writing this letter to express my sincere gratitude for the exceptional support that the Circle of Parents has provided to me and my family. Thank you, Ms Sonja Person, for playing a pivotal role in helping develop and navigate through the challenges that we have faced. Your support has not only helped it has taught us the true meaning of Community. Father Joe Boyd was a faithful member of Circle of Parents this year attending 31 of 32 meetings. He now serves as a COP parent leader. Many thanks to Joe and his family, Tonika, Joel and Joshua.

Visit depc.org for more success stories!



Down East Partnership for Children

215 Lexington Street | Rocky Mount, NC 27801
(252) 985-4300 | depc.org

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.



This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-SNAP.
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Donor Spotlight: McLane Company

Thank you to our newest supporter, the McLane Company, Inc.!
McLane Co. is one of the largest supply chain services leaders in the nation, delivering grocery and foodservice solutions to convenience stores, mass merchants, drug stores, and chain restaurants. With 80+ distribution centers and one of the country's largest private fleets, McLane distributes more than 50,000 products to nearly 110,000 locations nationwide. www.mclaneco.com

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SCAN QR CODE



Mark Your Calendar

Training Calendar: Visit depc.org for the latest Training Calendar for Child Care Professionals

Circle of Parents: Hybrid schedule on Monday nights

Kaleidoscope® Play & Learn Groups:
For children ages 0-5 at DEPC, Spring Hope and Tarboro!

Triple P Discussion Group:

Hassle Free Meal Time

Tuesday, March 31, 5:30-7:30pm

Triple P Group:

Six week course for families with children 3-8.

Tuesdays, April 14-May 19, 5:30-8:00pm

Partnership Appreciation Popover:

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - drop by between 11:30 and 1:30

Tuesdays, April 14-May 19, 5:30-8:00pm

Early Education Candidates Forum

Feb. 19 - Doors open: 5:30 Starts: 6:00

Sponsored by BEECS project at DEPC

Week of the Young Child

April 12-17, visit depc.org for more information

DEPC Golf Classic

Friday, April 17

Superball format, register at depc.org

