

North Carolina Proclaims September as Smart Start Month!

North Carolina has proclaimed September as Smart Start Month for the third year in a row, recognizing the Smart Start Network's important role in supporting children, families, and communities across the state.

At Smart Start of Yadkin County, we're proud to be one of 75 local partnerships serving all 100 counties. Together with NCPC, we're working to strengthen early care and education, family support, and child and family health.

Thank you to the professionals, families, partners, and local leaders who make this work possible. With continued investment and collaboration, we can help ensure young children and families receive the support they need.

As we celebrate Smart Start Month, we're also celebrating more than 30 years of impact across North Carolina. Thank you for being part of this important work.



Remembering Dolly Parton



"The Smart Start Network is deeply saddened by the passing of Dolly Parton," said Amy Cabbage, President of the North Carolina Partnership for Children. "Her belief that every child deserves access to books and the opportunity to develop a love of reading transformed the lives of countless children and families. The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) and the Smart Start Network join families and communities across North Carolina and around the world in mourning the passing of Dolly Parton, beloved entertainer, philanthropist and founder of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library."

About Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book-gifting program that mails one free, high-quality, age-appropriate book each month to enrolled children from birth to age five, regardless of family income. Through a partnership between Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the Smart Start Network, and local community partners, children in all 100 North Carolina counties have access to the program. Since the program expanded statewide in 2017, nearly 25 million books have been placed into the hands of North Carolina children and families.

Honoring Carolyn Choplin's Lasting Legacy at Smart Start of Yadkin County

For more than 28 years, Carolyn Choplin has been a steady and inspiring presence at Smart Start of Yadkin County. Since joining the organization in March 1998 and stepping into the role of Executive Director in May 2008, she has dedicated her career to strengthening the lives of children and families in our community. Carolyn's leadership has been marked by care, commitment, and a deep belief in the mission she served. Through changing times and growing needs, she helped guide the organization with both steadiness and heart, always keeping the well-being of children at the center of her work. As she retires, we celebrate not only her years of service, but the lasting impact she leaves behind in the programs she strengthened, the partnerships she built, and the countless lives she influenced along the way. We are deeply grateful for Carolyn's dedication and leadership, and we wish her joy, rest, and new adventures in the years ahead.



Meet Our New Executive Director



Smart Start of Yadkin County is pleased to welcome Susan Armstrong as our new Executive Director. With a passion for supporting young children, families, and the early childhood community, Susan is excited to help advance Smart Start's mission throughout Yadkin County. Susan has over 20 years' experience in Early Childhood Education, including over 14 years in the Smart Start Network, at both state and local capacities. In this role, she will work alongside families, educators, community partners, and local organizations to strengthen early childhood services and ensure children have the resources and support they need to thrive.

"I am honored to join Smart Start of Yadkin County," said Susan Armstrong. "I look forward to listening, learning, and building strong relationships throughout our community and to equipping children and families to grow, succeed, and thrive for generations."

Please join us in welcoming Susan to Smart Start of Yadkin County!

Upcoming!

Upcoming Trainings at SSYC:

Tues., Sept. 15th from 6:30-8:30 PM

Make it Take it: Nature Play on a Budget

Participants will leave with ready-to-use materials and ideas that support developmental domains for young children!

Tues., Sept. 22nd from 6:30-8:30 PM

Playground Safety: Part 1

Provides a comprehensive view of rules regarding safe outdoor environments

Thurs., Sept., 24th from 6:30-8:30 PM

Playground Safety: Part 2

Provides a comprehensive view of rules regarding safe outdoor environments and how to put a playground safety plan in place.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Smart Start of Yadkin County is to prepare all children birth to 5 years of age to be healthy and ready for kindergarten.

Approved February 24, 2014

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE

KALEIDOSCOPE PLAY & LEARN PLAYGROUP

Tuesdays in Sept-May from 10:00am-11:30am
Yadkin County Public Library
233 E Main St.
Yadkinville, NC 27055

Is your child 0-5 years old and at home during the day?
Do you want to learn more teaching ideas?

WHY JOIN?
As a parent or caregiver, being part of a community activity can help you feel less alone as you are amongst peers. Children will have fun, make friends, and grow in their social skills.

More information?
Contact:
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WHO CAN JOIN?
Moms, dads, grandparents, friends, neighbors, babysitters, aunts, uncles, nannies, and childcare teachers and their child or children.

The flyer features several colorful illustrations of children engaged in play. One child is sitting on the floor with blocks, another is pushing a toy car, and others are playing with a doll. The background is a light blue gradient.

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