



Child Care Resource and Referral

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FAMILY TIES

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Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten?

If your child is enrolling in Kindergarten this year, you should have received a Kindergarten Health Assessment Form from their new school. State law requires that every child entering kindergarten receive a health assessment. Brunswick County schools have to keep an up-to-date shot record for each child to keep their school healthy and safe. They also have to meet the requirements of each student, so the Kindergarten Health Assessment (KHA) is a great way to express the individual needs of your child.

The top section of the KHA has to be filled out by a parent, and the rest of the form needs to be completed by your child's doctor. *Please contact your child's medical home (their regular doctor listed on their insurance card) and schedule an appointment for a Kindergarten Health Assessment.* Remember, your child's medical home is the one place you can take them for all their sick and well care needs. Your child's medical home is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for medical advice.

Please schedule the appointment for your child's Kindergarten Health Assessment early to avoid a late-summer rush. You will need to discuss with the doctor any issues related to this important change and you may need time to address any concerns. Your child's doctor will include on the KHA form any special needs, such as medications, allergies, development, special diet, recommendations, etc. Also, your child's doctor will need to make sure that your child is properly immunized with the shots required by Brunswick County School system.

The KHA form must be fully completed by both you and your child's doctor and given to their new school on or before the child's first day. You can drop off the KHA to your child's school before June 15th or after August 15th. If the school has not received your child's KHA by August 25th, your child could be suspended and will not be allowed to return until the form is fully completed and turned in. Do Not Wait! You don't want to delay your child's education.

If you have not already done so, schedule your child's Kindergarten Health Assessment today!

For help with children on Medicaid:
 Shannon Robinson
 Health Check Coordinator
 Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear
 (910) 763-3133

If you have questions about which school your child will attend, need help completing the KHA, or need to know how to submit the form before school starts: Contact Brunswick County Schools — Student Services (910) 253-2900 ext 1001

Please make sure you keep your child up-to-date with their Well Check-Ups. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends yearly Well Check-Ups for children over the age of two. A good way to remember when your child is due for a Well Check-Up is to take them around their birthday. Research has shown that healthy children miss less school and are more alert and focused on learning. Well Check-Ups are an important part of staying healthy and can give you peace of mind about your child's health and well-being.

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Coastal Horizons Center's Rape Crisis Center Brunswick Volunteer Hospital Responder Training

Saturday , May 21st 9-5 p. m. & Monday, May 23rd 5:30-7:30 p. m. at the

**Rape Crisis Center
615 Shipyard Blvd. Wilmington NC**

Contact Deanna Stoker at the Rape Crisis Center: 910-392-6936 for more information.

SEEK: Subsidized Early Education for Kids (Subsidized Child Care)

We will soon have a new statewide electronic system to report children's attendance and to pay providers. It is called **SEEK**, Subsidized Early Education for Kids. The North Carolina Division of Child Development (the Division) is working with Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) to develop and set up this system for you to record your child's attendance at your child care facility.

If your phone number is in the state's Subsidy System, you will receive a brief phone call from a representative of the Division telling you about SEEK. These calls will be made from April through August, depending on when your county is scheduled to begin participating in SEEK.

The county roll-out schedule is available on the Division's web site at www.ncchildcare.net under **What's New**.

In addition to the phone call, you will receive a postcard in the mail telling you more about SEEK. The postcard will have an image of the SEEK card on it. About two weeks after the post card arrives, ACS will send you a personalized magnetic stripe card (SEEK) attached to a card mailer. This card is similar to a debit or credit card you use at the grocery store or other stores. Instructions and tips on the use and care of the card will be included with your SEEK card mailer. Please do not throw away your card mailer or your

SEEK card.

Effective Tuesday, May 3, 2011, parents and responsible adults can call the Card-holder Call Center at 1-877-766-2322 to activate their SEEK card and choose a PIN number. The voice activated system will ask you for a 4-digit PIN number. Make sure to choose a number that you can easily remember. Staff with ACS are available at the Call Center to answer your questions about SEEK.

SEEK will help
our subsidy
program
become more
efficient

Changes to Your NC Child Care Assistance Coming Soon

Watch your mailbox for a special card holder
with your SEEK card attached.



SPEECH MATTERS...ENCOURAGING YOUR CHILD TO TALK

Even if your child has not yet started saying words, you can still communicate with your baby. Building upon these first steps of communication can help your child master sounds and words more easily as time goes on:

Talk with Your Baby. Simply talk out loud about what is going on, what you are doing, or what he or she sees at the moment. Talk with your baby by imitating him or her. Even if it's just cooing or grunting, imitate the sound your child makes, then wait for a response.

Sing Songs. Songs are a great way to introduce repetition. If the song has gestures or moves, encourage your child to use them with you. He or she will be able to communicate with those and will "sing along" with you, even before being able to speak.

Read Stories. Books are a great way to capture children's attention because of the bright pictures and the changes in your voice as you read to them. Hearing the same story over and over can help your child to understand, listen better, and build vocabulary.

Wait for Your Child to Communicate. You can teach a sign for "more", or encourage your child to make "mmm" sounds until he or she can say "more." Pause in the middle of a story or song and wait until your child verbally tries to fill in where you left off.

These suggestions can give your child the extra push that will urge him or her to communicate with you more effectively. Notice what motivates your child, and what activities or conversations bring out the most verbal reactions. It may seem silly to talk with no response at first, but surrounding your child with words will enable him or her to learn verbal cues and respond more confidently over time.

If you are concerned about your child's speech (or any other area of your child's development, such as learning, moving, playing, or behavior) and would like a no-cost developmental evaluation, please contact:

The Wilmington Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA)

Early Intervention services are available until your child's 3rd birthday.

Serving: Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, and Pender Counties.

You can reach us at 910-251-5817 or 1-877-763-3120.

**Communities In Schools has started a Single Parent Support Group which meets the
1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at
Supply Elementary School from 5:45 pm—7:15 pm**

Free of charge and childcare provided.



Call Debbie Gurreri 253-5327 ext. 1435 to register.

Smart Start of Brunswick County Child Care Resource and Referral

P.O. Box 2232
Shalotte, NC 28459

Phone: 910-755-3362 or 1-877-422-7710
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Visit us at at:

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www.smartstartbrunswick.org

Facebook: Smart Start of BrunswickCounty

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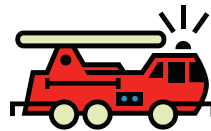
BIG TOY DAY

Saturday, May 21, 2011 11:00—5:00

Cape Fear Regional Jetport, Oak Island

Admission: \$5—under 5 free

Call 457-3494 for more info



Smart Start of Brunswick County Staff

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