NC InCK
NC INTEGRATED CARE FOR KIDS

Monthly Resource Roundup: Early Childhood Education

February 2026

Connecting young children (ages 0-5) to high-quality early education opportunities is one of the most impactful steps that Family Navigators can take to promote healthy development, learning, and kindergarten readiness.

Talk to Families Early About Early Childhood Education

Children with Medicaid are highly likely to be eligible for subsidized child care programs like Early Head Start (EHS), Head Start (HS), and NC PreK. **Most programs begin accepting applications annually between January and February.** Talking to families early in the year gives them ample time to gather all necessary documents to apply once the applications open. **Programs, especially EHS, can reach capacity fast, so please spread the word early and often!** Below is a quick reference table for 2026-2027 applicant eligibility.

Program	Age Eligibility	Income Eligibility
Early Head Start (EHS)	2 years old (or younger) by 8/31/2026 DOBs: 9/01/2023 – "today" depending on the county	At or below 130% of Federal Poverty Level.
Head Start (HS)	3 to 4 years old by 8/31/2026 DOBs: 09/01/2021 – 8/31/2023	At or below 130% of Federal Poverty Level.
NC PreK	4 years old by 8/31/2026 DOBs: 09/01/2021 – 8/31/2022	At or below 75% of State Median Income (SMI). *Note: 20% of eligible children enrolled may have family incomes above 75% SMI if they have documented risk factors*
Durham PreK	4 years old by 8/31/2026 DOBs: 09/01/2021 – 8/31/2022	At or below 400% of Federal Poverty Level.
For all programs, families must submit: Completed + signed application, proof of residency, proof of income, form of ID and proof of child's age		

**Note: Last updated on 1/23/2026. May not accurately reflect the most current information.*

Connect Families Early to Applications for Early Childhood Programs

FNs can assist families directly or connect them to Early Years for help finding, evaluating, and paying for high quality child care. Call 1-855-327-5933 or email referral@earlyyearsnc.org to access free support from an Early Years Child Care Referral Specialist. Services available in Spanish.

Use the links below to jump to application deadlines and links for each county:

- **Alamance County**
- **Durham County**
- **Granville/Vance Counties**
- **Orange County**

Encourage Parents to Pursue Multiple Options for Support

EHS, HS, and NC PreK help keep child care affordable, but some families need services beyond these programs' regular hours. The child care subsidy can cover extended care costs; learn more in our Early Childhood Guide (pg. 7) or contact Early Years.

Remind Families of What They'll Need

All subsidized programs require documentation to verify proof of birth, address, and income. EHS, HS, and NC PreK ***do not require*** proof of citizenship for children or caregivers, but some may ask for it. EHS and HS prioritize families facing additional challenges; providing proof of benefits, like SNAP, makes a family "categorically eligible" and can help their application.

Examples of documents include but aren't limited to:

- **Proof of Birth** (of Child): Birth certificate or valid passport
- **Proof of Address**: Utility bills, bank statements, lease agreements, government-issued ID, car registration, letter from a landlord, Affidavit of Residency, etc.
- **Proof of Income**: Pay stubs, W-2s, 1099 forms, tax returns, signed letter from an employer, unemployment/disability documents, social security, etc.
- **Proof of Benefits**: Medicaid card, TANF award letter, SNAP award letter, SSI benefits, etc.
- **Proof of Immunizations**: Certificate of Immunization signed by a doctor/clinic, immunization record with vaccines and dates of administration listed

Care Managers Don't Always Have to Be the Experts

Each NC InCK county has a unique landscape of programs and resources. When in doubt, directly connect families to local experts like Early Years, Partnerships for Children (AKA "Smart Start"), the DSS Child Care Subsidy program, and other community/faith-based organizations. Learn more about the early childhood landscape in our Early Childhood Guide.

Alamance County - Early Education Programs and Contacts

Resource	Details
HS + EHS (Ages 2-4) RCS Head Start  2026-2027 application is ***OPEN*** in English or Spanish!	Provider: Regional Consolidated Services Head Start Address: 109 N. Main St. Randleman, 27317 Contacts: Karey Stevens, kstevens@regionalcs.org, (336)-629-5141; or Connie Redding, credding@regionalcs.org. (336) 672-5570
NC PreK (Age 4) Application opens Feb. 2nd	Provider: Alamance Burlington School System (ABSS) Address: 1712 Vaughn Road, Burlington, 27217 Contacts: Abss_preK@abss.k12.nc.us, 336-438-4000 ext. 20160; Tonya Jones 336-438-4000 ext. 20227 tonya_jones@abss.k12.nc.us Note: Families can also apply through ACPC!
Exceptional Young Children (Ages 6 weeks-4)	Provider: LIFESPAN Early Learning Center Locations: Alamance Community College: 1247 Jimmie Kerr Rd, Graham, 27253

LIFESPAN SERVICES abilities illuminated Applications are OPEN! *Summer enrichment for children 6-12 years old available!*	Stokes Street: 919 Stokes St, Burlington, 27215 Contacts: 336-506-4123 (Graham); 336-513-4250 (Burlington) About: Inclusive programs for kids with developmental delays and disabilities from 6 weeks until start of kindergarten.
Early Childhood Experts ALAMANCE PARTNERSHIP FOR Children	Provider: Alamance Partnership for Children (ACPC) Address: 2322 River Road, Burlington, NC, United States, 27217 Contacts: Di'Quasia Champ, (336) 513-0063 (ext. 105), dchamp@alamancechildren.org; Ana Vazquez (bilingual), (336) 513-0063 (ext 111), avazquez@alamancechildren.org Services: - Free NC PreK application support - Outdoor Learning Environment - The Incredible Years (English and Spanish!) - Parents as Teachers - Literacy programs (Free books!)

Durham County - Early Education Programs and Contacts

Upcoming Events

Virtual PreK Family Info Session – February 21st 10-11:30am with Durham PreK
More information HERE or register HERE



Resource	Details
Early Head Start (Ages 0-3) Apply NOW in English or Spanish Apply NOW in English or Spanish	Provider: 1. Families & Communities Rising (FCR) 2. Durham Partnership for Children (DPfC) Address: 1. (FCR) 4220 NC-55 Ste 330, Durham, 27713 2. (DPfC) 1201 S. Briggs Ave., Ste 100, Durham, 27703 Contacts: 1. (FCR) Sherquanta Parker, Sparker@fcrinc.org; Angie Zule, Azule@fcrinc.org 2. (DPfC) Tanisha Brooks, tanisha@dpfc.net; Yadira Vera (bilingual), yadiera@dpfc.net Note: 1. FCR uses same link for EHS/HS apps 2. Families should apply to both FCR and DPfC. Both offer their own "pool" of seats.
Head Start (Ages 3-4) Apply NOW in English or Spanish!	Provider: Families & Communities Rising (FCR) Address: 4220 NC-55 Suite 330, Durham, 27713 Contacts: Sherquanta Parker Sparker@fcrinc.org or Angie Zule Azule@fcrinc.org Notes: 1. FCR uses same link for EHS/HS apps 2. Durham PreK's application is *universal* for 4-y/os and includes HS programs
NC PreK (Age 4) Application opens March 2nd!	Providers: Durham PreK Location: Jim and Carolyn Hunt Child Care Resource Center, 1201 S. Briggs Ave, Durham, 27703 Contacts: 1-833-PREK-EDU (1-833-773-5338); Tosh Adams, tosha@earlyyearsnc.org Notes: Families with age-eligible children should apply through Durham PreK's "Universal Application," which this covers 30+ NC PreK *and* HS sites and community-based licensed child care programs
Early Childhood Experts	Provider: Durham Partnership for Children Location: 1201 S. Briggs Ave, Ste 100, Durham, 27703 Contacts: Kemonie Ballard, kemonie@dpfc.net; Luchy Espinal (bilingual), luchy@dpfc.net Services: - Early Head Start - Smart Start Child Care Scholarship Program - Resource Navigation - Parent Leadership - Transition to Kindergarten

Granville and Vance Counties - Early Education Programs and Contacts

Upcoming Events
Kindergarten Readiness Roundtable (Virtual) – February 19th 6-8pm



Resource	Details
Early Head Start* **(Ages 13 mos-3) and Head Start (Ages 3-4)** Apply NOW in English; PDFs in English or Spanish	Provider: Franklin Vance Warren Opportunity Inc. (FVWO) Address: 180 South Beckford Dr. Henderson, 27536 Contacts: Naima Mosely, naimamosely@fvwopp.com, 252-492-4196 or 252-492-0161 ext. 8828 Note: *FVWO manages EHS in Granville *and* Vance counties. Children must be 13 mos old
NC PreK (Age 4) **1. Granville County** Apply NOW through March 6th PDFs in English and Spanish	Providers: 1. Granville County Public Schools (GCPS) 2. Vance County Schools (VCS) Location: 1. GCPS: 101 Delacroix St, Oxford, 27565 2. VCS: 1724 Graham Ave, Henderson, 27536 Contacts: 1. GCPS: Latasha Hargrove, preK@gcs.k12.nc.us, 919-693-4613 ext. 101203 2. VCS: Stephanie Alson, 252-492-2127, salston@vcs.k12.nc.us; prek@vcs.k12.nc.us

2. Vance County Apply NOW in English or Spanish	Notes: 1. GCPS' NC PreK appl *deadline* is March 6th. Most counties allow year-round application 2. FGV Smart Start PreK links direct to GCPS or VCS' websites
Early Childhood Experts Franklin Granville Vance Smart Start, Inc. a partner in the Smart Start network	Provider: Franklin, Granville, Vance Smart Start (FGV) Location: 125 Charles D Rollins Rd, Henderson, 27536 Contacts: Kendra Davis, kdavis@fgvsmartstart.org, 252-433-9110 ext. 237; Amy Oaks, aoakes@fgvsmartstart.org ext. 222 Services: - Free application support - Adolescent Parenting Program - Support with finding child care - Early literacy programs (free books!) - Free online family activities - Resource navigation - Kindergarten Transitions - Supporting Father Involvement - Parents as Teachers

Orange County - Early Education Programs and Contacts

Upcoming Events

READY SET KINDERGARTEN FEBRUARY 6TH with Orange County Schools. Spanish interpretation available!



Resource	Details
Early Head Start (Ages 0-3) Apply in English or Spanish	Provider: Families and Communities Rising Address: 4220 NC-55 Ste 330, Durham, 27713 Contacts: Sherquanta Parker, Sparker@fcrinc.org; Angie Zule, Azule@fcrinc.org Note: FCR uses same link for EHS/HS apps
Head Start (Ages 3-4) Apply in English or Spanish -OR- Application opens Feb. 9th	Providers: 1. Families and Communities Rising (FCR) 2. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) Address: 1. (FCR) 4220 NC-55 Ste 330, Durham, 27713 2. (CHCCS) Lincoln Center, 750 S Merritt Mill Rd, Chapel Hill, 27516 Contacts: 1. (FCR) Sherquanta Parker, Sparker@fcrinc.org; Angie Zule, Azule@fcrinc.org 2. (CHCCS) Marivel Pineda, mpineda@chccs.k12.nc.us, 919-967-8211 ext. 20200; Dr. Sophia Mapp, smapp@chccs.k12.nc.us, 919-967-8211 ext. 20101 Notes: 1. FCR uses same link for EHS/HS apps 2. CHCCS uses same link for HS/NC PreK
NC PreK (Age 4) Application opens Feb. 9th Application opening TBD	Providers: 1. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) 2. Orange County Schools (OCS) Locations: 1. (CHCCS) Lincoln Center, 750 S Merritt Mill Rd, Chapel Hill, 27516 2. (OCS) 200 E. King St, Hillsborough, 27278 Contacts: 1. (CHCCS) Marivel Pineda, mpineda@chccs.k12.nc.us, 919-967-8211 ext. 20200; Dr. Sophia Mapp, smapp@chccs.k12.nc.us, 919-967-8211 ext. 20101 2. (OCS) Jamie Bowers, jamie.bowers@orange.k12.nc.us; 919-245-4006 ext. 18010 Notes: 1. CHCCS application link is the same for both Head Start *and* NC PreK 2. CHCCS and OCS each offer different NC PreK seats. Families applying through Orange County Partnership for Young Children are applying for CHCCS, OCS, and other licensed NC PreK programs.

Early Childhood Experts Orange County Partnership for Young Children **Apply NOW to 21+ NC PreK sites** in Orange County in English or in Spanish!	Provider: Orange County Partnership for Young Children (OCPYC) Location: 402 Millstone Dr, Ste 300, Hillsborough, 27278 Contacts: ocpyc@orangesmartstart.org; Arlene Owens aowens@orangesmartstart.org, 984-677-2211 Services: - Assists and takes NC PreK applications for 21+ NC PreK sites in Orange county, including CHCCS and OCS. - Parenting education programs - Early literacy (free books!) - Home visiting programs

**For any questions, support with navigating early childhood resources or with making a successful connection, please contact Kirsten Alfaro, Early Childhood Integration Consultant at kalfaro@fcrinc.org, 763-447-1687*