

Child Care News

A quarterly newsletter from The Children's Resource Center, Catawba County's Child Care Resource and Referral Agency

Volume XV, Issue 1

Summer 2015

While new kindergartners are worrying about whether or not anyone will be their friend and if they'll be able to find the bathroom, their preschool teachers are wondering if they've succeeded at preparing their small students for this big transition. But how do we assess "readiness?"

Kindergarten Readiness Is...*

A child who listens

- To directions without interrupting
- To stories and poems for five or ten minutes without restlessness

A child who hears

- Words that rhyme
- Words that begin with the same sound or different sounds

A child who sees

- Likenesses and differences in pictures and designs
- Letters and words that match

A child who understands

- The relationship inherent in such words as up and down, top and bottom, little and big
- The classifications of words that represent people, places, and things

A child who speaks and can

- Stay on the topic in class discussions
- Retell a story or poem in correct sequence
- Tell a story or relate an experience of her own

A child who thinks and can

- Give the main idea of a story
- Give unique ideas and important details
- Give reasons for his opinions

A child who adjusts

- To changes in routine and to new situations without becoming fearful
- To opposition or defeat without crying or sulking
- To necessity of asking for help when needed

A child who plays

- Cooperatively with other children
- And shares, takes turns and assumes his share of group responsibility
- And can run, jump, skip, and bounce a ball with comparative dexterity

A child who works

- Without being easily distracted
- And follows directions
- And completes each task
- And takes pride in her work

*Adapted from Howlett, M.P. (1970, February 18). Teacher's edition: *My Weekly Reader Surprise*, Vol.12, Issue 20.

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THE CHILDREN'S

RESOURCE CENTER

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Heatstroke Deaths of Children in Vehicles



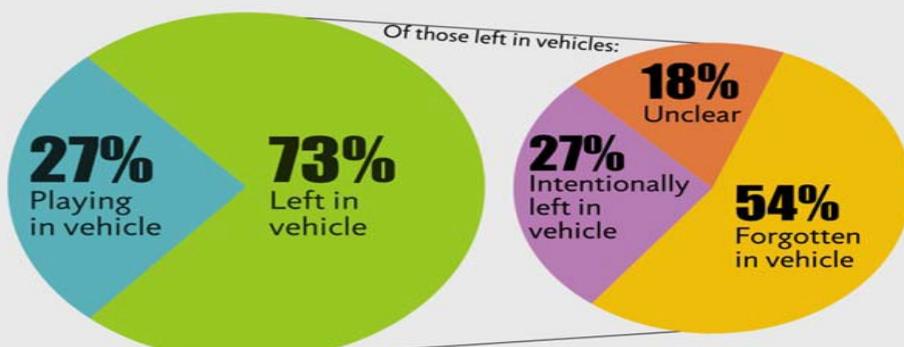
BY THE NUMBERS NHTSA (2012)

10  the minutes it takes for a car to reach deadly temperatures on an 80 degree day

38  the average number of children who die from vehicular heatstroke in the US each year

57  the lowest known outside temperature at which heatstroke can occur

BY CIRCUMSTANCE Guard (2005)



Boys accounted for:

3 in 5 *left* deaths



3 in 4 *playing* deaths



BY AGE Guard (2005)

80% of these deaths were children ages **2 and under**

Children ages:

≤2 were more likely to be **left by a caregiver**

≥3 were more likely to be **playing in the car**



TIPS NHTSA (2012)

Never leave children in a vehicle unattended, even with the windows cracked, even "for a minute"

Always check the backseat when exiting the vehicle (put your phone or your purse in the backseat to create a reminder system)

Always keep vehicle doors and trunks locked and keys out of reach

Make an agreement with your childcare provider to always call you when your child is absent

Call 911 if you see a child alone in a vehicle

For detailed sources and resources: ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/publications/heatstrokeinfographic
For NHTSA's Look Before You Lock Campaign: safecar.gov/parents/heat-involved.htm



Support Worthy Wages for Early Educators

Did you know that North Carolina early educators are better educated than ever before, but the majority still don't earn a worthy wage that recognizes their value and contribution to young children's school readiness and success in school and in life?

The typical early educator has two or four year degree, but only earn \$10 per hour, and many are so poorly paid that they are eligible for public assistance.

You can send a message to your own state legislators or Governor Pat McCrory via the Coalition's Action Center. Use this message below or send your own.

“Early educators are the key to ensuring young children reach their potential and arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed. Support teacher education and compensation by fully funding Child Care Subsidies, Smart Start, and NC PreK.”

Visit the Coalition's Action Center at www.capwiz.com/ncchildren and send your message today.

Thank you to all the early educators to make a difference in young children's lives and school readiness every day!

Michele Rivest
NC Child Care Coalition

What does Kindergarten Readiness Mean?

“In a study of 1,339 kindergarten teachers' views on school readiness conducted in 1993, over 75 percent of respondents felt that the top three readiness attributes were for a child to be a) physically healthy, rested, and well nourished, b) able to communicate his or her thoughts and needs in words, and c) curious and enthusiastic in their approach to new activities. More than half of the teachers in this study also indicated that readiness included not being disruptive, being sensitive to other children's feelings, and being able to take turns and share. Ten percent or less thought being able to count to 20 or more or knowing the letters of the alphabet were important in terms of kindergarten readiness. More recent data from the ECLS-K study showed the importance of nonacademic readiness skills for kindergarten teachers. Specific academic tasks—such as using a pencil, knowing the names of colors and shapes, recognizing letters, or counting to 20 or more—were less likely to be rated as essential readiness qualities. With the exception of being able to use a pencil or brush, these tasks were rated as essential or very important by less than one-third of teachers. Conversely, over 75 percent of the 3,305 kindergarten teachers sampled in this study felt being able to follow directions and communicate both needs and thoughts, as well as not being disruptive, were more essential or very important readiness skills. Additional smaller studies also find teachers believe nonacademic skills are more important for readiness.

Full Policy Report: <http://www.nieer.org/resources/policyreports/report5.pdf>

View the Fact Sheet: <http://www.nieer.org/resources/factsheets/11.pdf>

Contributed by: Tina Stuart, The Children's Resource Center

Resource: “Prepared for Kindergarten: What does ‘Readiness’ mean?”, By Debra J. Ackerman and W. Steven Barnett, NIEER Policy Report (March 2005)



The Children's Resource Center



Catawba County's Free Resource and Referral Agency

Check out our new website:

www.childrensresourcecenter.org



ECELS

Early Childhood Education Linkage System

Healthy Child Care Pennsylvania

ECELS Health Capsule: Cleaning Products - Look for the new EPA *Safer Choice* Label

Update: This message contains working weblinks for the EPA *Safer Choice* Label

The EPA has a new *Safer Choice* label program available at www2.epa.gov/saferchoice. This label will help consumers find safer cleaning products. Manufacturers can use the new label only if the EPA Scientists determine that every ingredient in the product is safe for humans and pets, meets environmental standards, and cleans well. As of April 29, 2015, the EPA has authorized use of the new *Safer Choice* label on over 2000 cleaning products. Look for the label when purchasing products for your early childhood or school age program. Also, you can search online for products that meet the *Safer Choice* Standard at <http://www2.epa.gov/saferchoice/products>

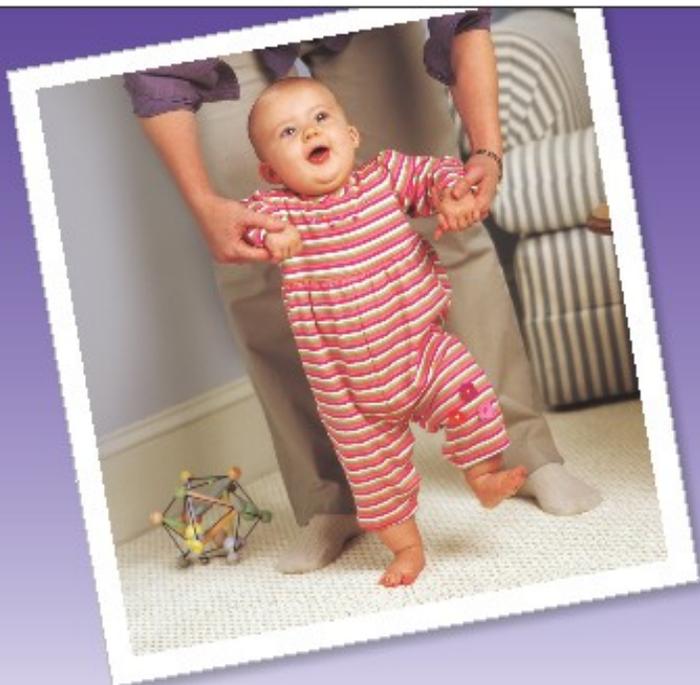
Libby Ungvary
ECELS Director

Attention!

Please remember to plan for CRC training classes by registering and paying at least 24 hours in advance of the desired class. We understand if you register but cannot attend, however, please call so that we may plan accordingly. We have had several classes of no shows and in some instances this has prevented participants on a waiting list from attending a class that they could have otherwise attended. We strive for everyone to have an opportunity to fulfill their training needs. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Recognizing Developmental Milestones



Every day you see them reach milestones. There are free resources to help you spot a few more.

You spend your day working with, playing with, and watching children, and you are already familiar with many milestones — such as pointing at objects, smiling, and playing with others — that mark a child's development. All children are unique, but sooner or later, you will see a child who is not developing as they should. Free information on developmental milestones from 2 months to five years is available for child care providers and preschool teachers.

For **FREE** materials, visit www.cdc.gov/ActEarly or call **1-800-CDC-INFO**.



Learn the Signs. Act Early.

www.cdc.gov/ActEarly



It's time to change how we view a child's growth.

As they grow, children are always learning new things. Below are just some of the things you should look for as your child grows. Use this as a guide, and if you have any concerns, talk with your child's doctor and call **1-800-CDC-INFO** to get connected with your community's early childhood intervention system.

At 6 months, many children

- respond to own name
- respond to other people's emotions and often seem happy
- copy sounds
- like to play with others, especially parents

At 1 year (12 months), many children

- use simple gestures, like shaking head "no" or waving "bye-bye"
- say "mama" and "dada" and exclamations like "uh-oh!"
- copy gestures
- respond to simple spoken requests

At 1 ½ years (18 months), many children

- play simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- point to show others something interesting
- show a full range of emotions, such as happy, sad, angry
- say several single words

At 2 years (24 months), many children

- say sentences with 2 to 4 words
- follow simple instructions
- get excited when with other children
- point to things or pictures when they are named

At 3 years (36 months), many children

- show affection for friends without prompting
- carry on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences
- copy adults and friends
- play make-believe with dolls, animals, and people

At 4 years (48 months), many children

- tell stories
- would rather play with other children than by themselves
- play cooperatively with others

Questions to ask your child's doctor:

- Is my child's development on track for his or her age?
- How can I track my child's development?
- What should I do if I'm worried about my child's progress?
- Where can I get more information?

Adapted from Caring for Your Baby and Young Child: Birth to Age 5, Fifth Edition, edited by Steven Shostet and Tanya Remer Alaman © 1994, 1999, 1996, 2004, 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and BRIGHT FUTURES: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SUPERVISION OF INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS, Third Edition, edited by Joseph Hagan, Jr., Judith S. Shaw, and Paula M. Duncan, 2008, Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics.

www.cdc.gov/actearly
1-800-CDC-INFO



Learn the Signs. Act Early.

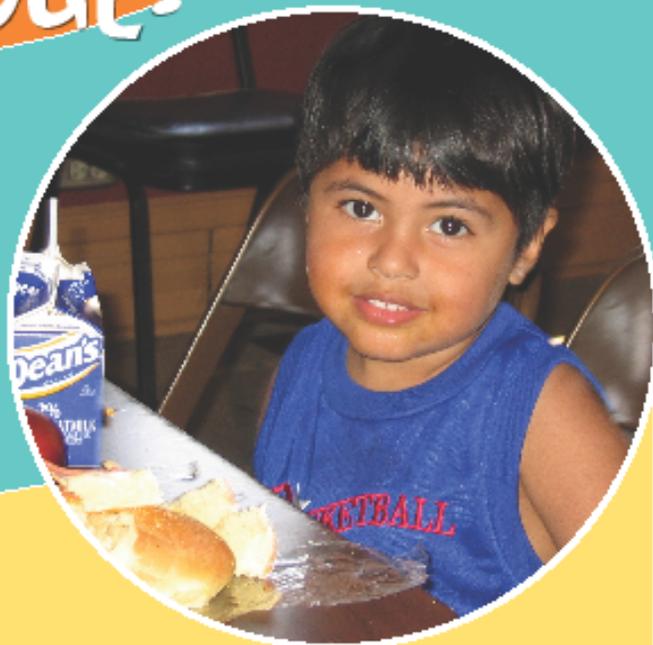
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United States Department of Agriculture

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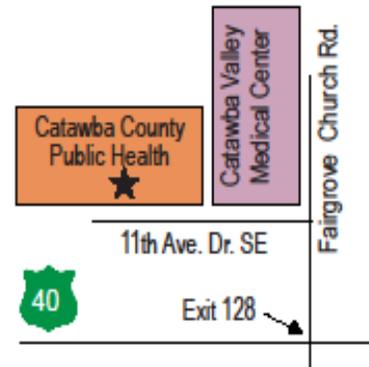
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FARMERS MARKET

Catawba County Public Health Farmers Market

Thursdays
from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: In the parking lot of Catawba County Public Health, which is located at 3070 11th Ave. Dr. SE, Hickory, behind Catawba Valley Medical Center



Cash, Debit, EBT and WIC farmers market vouchers accepted.

• • • Farm Fresh & Family Friendly • • •

CATAWBA COUNTY Public Health

<http://www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth/Adult/FarmersMarket.asp>

The mission of The Children's Resource Center is to ensure that all children and their families in Catawba County have access to quality, reliable, child care and developmental opportunities. All services, programs, activities and employment practices of The Children's Resource Center are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, handicap, or political affiliation.

The Children's Resource Center is a Smart Start funded project through the Catawba County Partnership For Children.

