Counties for Kids

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Agenda

Early Childhood Rural Peer Learning Network:
Improving Children and Families’ Access to Services during COVID-19

• Welcome

• County Speaker – Crystal Kelly, Watauga County, N.C. (20 minutes)

• Questions & Interactive Discussion (30 minutes)

• Conclusion
Watauga County, NC
Population: 53,421

Elevate Watauga
Building for Tomorrow. Today.
Watauga County Passes Resolution to Increase Investments in PN-3
COVID-19 and Early Childhood

- Child care deemed an essential service and allowed to stay open with increased health and safety considerations.
- Financial support for child care industry overall through CARES Act Funding.
- All professional development for child care centers switched to virtual.
- All home visiting and parent support programs switched to telehealth services.
- Increased awareness of concrete needs of families at local and state level.
- Level funding in local Watauga County allocation for Early Childhood initiatives.
- Delay in launching the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund.
Pivoted onsite child care to Outdoor Learning Center model
The Children's Council is...

Hitting the Road!

We are here to support everyone taking care of young children in our community. We will be traveling to various parts of Watauga County in the coming months. Here is our schedule so that you can plan to come see us close to home!

FREE: Activity kits for each stage of development, Diapers, Formula, Parenting Information, Current Resource information, Freebies!!!!

Schedule:

October 1, 2020
Cornerstone Summit Church
1100 E King St, Boone, NC 28607

October 8, 2020
Old Cove Creek School
Dale Adams Rd, Sugar Grove, NC 28679

October 15, 2020
Cornerstone Summit Church
1100 E King St, Boone, NC 28607

October 23, 2020
Trinity Baptist Church
7185 Old US 421 S, Deep Gap, NC 28618

October 29, 2020
Old Cove Creek School
Dale Adams Rd, Sugar Grove, NC 28679

**All event times are 10:00 am to 2:00pm**
Van outreach program to bring resources to the families through partnerships with local churches, community agencies, and schools in the county.
Diaper bank co-located with Health and Hunger Coalition gives out free diapers, wipes and formulas to Watauga County families.
Key Takeaways

Strong **community** partnerships

**Financial** support

Social emotional **support**

**Innovative** programming

Active **volunteer** base

**Flexibility** to respond
Thank You!

The National Collaborative for Infants & Toddlers (NCIT)
Funded through the Pritzker Children’s Initiative, NCIT brings together national partners, early childhood leaders, philanthropy, policymakers and practitioners inside and outside state and local government to create and strengthen promising policies and programs, and share what works, so that more states and communities can support the healthy development of our youngest children.

The Children’s Council of Watauga County
Established in 1977, the Children’s Council builds upon the strengths of children, families, and educators by investing resources, information, and training towards our greatest community asset: Our Children. We work to build a strong foundation for children’s learning and development by strengthening families, the early childhood system, and the wider community.

Have questions?
To learn more about NCIT and start working on prenatal-to-three programs and policies in your state or community, please contact: crystal@thechildrenscouncil.org or visit www.theNCIT.org
Discussion Questions

• How is your county engaging stakeholders and partners?

• Is your county experiencing any budget challenges due to COVID-19?

• What other models have you been using to best meet children and families’ needs in your county?

• How are you connecting families with limited broadband access to services?

• Are you leveraging telehealth and other tech approaches to connect hard to reach families with vital services?
CONTACT US

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Thank you!