



July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

ABOUT

The Guilford County Partnership for Children (GCPC) administers North Carolina's statewide early childhood initiative, known as Smart Start, in Guilford County. GCPC funds programs supporting children prenatal to age five, their families, and early childhood educators. Smart Start was created in 1993 as an innovative solution to a problem: Children were coming to school unprepared to learn. Guilford County Partnership for Children (GCPC) is one of 75 Local Partnerships that cover all 100 North Carolina counties. GCPC was established in 1996 to specifically meet the needs in Guilford County. Today, we work to invest in evidence based and evidence informed programs, that enhance outcomes for young children, families, early childhood educators, and all those involved in a child's early years of life.

VISION

Every child in Guilford County enters school safe, healthy, and ready to succeed.

MISSION

To partner with families, early childhood educators, and our community to support the diverse needs of children prenatal to age five, ensuring their success in school and in life.

VALUES

Child-Centered: We believe that all children deserve equitable access to high-quality, developmentally appropriate opportunities and experiences.

Collaboration: We foster cross-sector partnerships to improve early childhood outcomes and positively impact the lives of children and families.

Family and Educator Engagement: We encourage parents, caregivers, and educators to participate in decision-making processes and collaborate with others to achieve their goals.

Accountability: We use data to inform our work, measure our impact, and ensure we deliver and support effective and responsive services.

For more information about the Guilford County Partnership for Children, or for information about how to contact a program partner, please contact GCPC at (336) 274-5437 or visit our website at: www.guilfordchildren.org

LOCAL SMART START FUNDED PROGRAMS

Early Care & Education



Bringing Out the Best, UNCG Center for Youth, Families & Community Partnerships

Bringing Out the Best (BOB) is a program providing community-based services targeting early childhood educators who serve children birth to five with social and emotional challenges. The goal is to increase the number of children in Guilford County that are healthy and ready to succeed as they enter school. Program services are delivered in early care and education classroom settings.



Child Care Health Consultation, Guilford County DHHS, Division of Public Health

Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs) are registered nurses working with early care and education programs to assess, plan, implement and evaluate strategies to achieve high-quality, safe, and healthy environments for young children. The program collaborates with the NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center to provide health and safety resources, training, and technical assistance for early childhood educators.



Child Care Subsidy/Rising Stars, Guilford County DHHS, Division of Social Services

The Child Care Subsidy Program (POC/Rising Stars) provides financial assistance to help cover child care costs for families, supporting parents and caregivers as they maintain employment, pursue job training or education, care for children in protective custody, enhance child development, reunify families, navigate crises, and prevent foster care placements.

Additional funds provide support to administer the Child Care Subsidy Program. Support may include family outreach, application assistance, eligibility determination, payment processing, annual recertification, and required reporting.



Education, Quality Improvement & Professional Development, UNCG

Education, Quality Improvement & Professional Development (EQIPD) provides services to early childhood educators to increase program quality through professional development, peer coaching, consultation of teaching/learning requirements and quality enhancement for early care and education facilities.



Child Care WAGES®, Early Years

The Child Care WAGES® program provides education-based salary supplements to low-paid teachers, directors, and family child care providers working with children between the ages of birth to five in Guilford County. WAGES is designed to provide young children more stable relationships with better-educated teachers by rewarding teacher education and continuity of care.

Early Care & Education, Continued



CDA Apprenticeship, GenerationEd

The Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ Apprenticeship offers participants on-the-job learning and coursework to support early childhood educators in attaining an Infant-Toddler or Preschool certification. The program offers one-to-one mentoring and classroom-based technical instruction. All apprenticeships culminate in a CDA exam and nationally recognized credential from the Council on Professional Recognition.

Child & Family Health



Family Connects Guilford, Guilford County DHHS, Division of Public Health

Family Connects is a nurse home visiting program that helps parents better understand how to care for their baby, increase their confidence, provide breastfeeding support, reduce emergency room visits and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. During a home visit, a Family Connects nurse will address a family's questions and concerns, offer emotional support, check vital signs/assess the overall health of baby and birthing person, provide education, identify back-to-work and home support needs, and make appropriate referrals. Family Connects is available to any individual in Guilford County who gives birth.



NICU Family Support, Family Support™ Network of Central Carolina

NICU Family Support offers enhanced support and education to families with infants admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). All services are free and confidential. Peer support via Circle of Parents is provided to help parents navigate the unique challenges that occur with having a child in the NICU, give them a support system of other parents who have experienced a similar journey, and help them feel less isolated. The nurses are also able to assess the family's needs during their stay in the NICU and provide resources or referrals.



Adopt-A-Mom Program, Guilford County DHHS, Division of Public Health

Adopt-A-Mom coordinates prenatal care for expectant parents who are not eligible for Medicaid or do not have private insurance to cover the cost of care and cannot afford to pay out of pocket for prenatal care.



Therapeutic Early Intervention Program, Growing Connections for Pediatric Achievements

The Therapeutic and Early Intervention Program provides speech therapy services to children age birth to five in Guilford County, who are uninsured or underinsured. Community-Based Rehabilitative Services (CBRS) will be provided to uninsured and underinsured families in Guilford County with children under age 5 who currently qualify to receive CDSA services. GCPA is formerly the Greensboro Cerebral Palsy Association.

Family Support



Triple P, BOB at UNCG Center for Youth, Families & Community Partnerships

Triple P - Positive Parenting Program® is a research-based program that gives parents practical strategies to lay groundwork for healthy parenting practices and confidently manage their children's behavior.



Healthy Start, Family Service of the Piedmont

Healthy Start is designed to promote healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes and provide participants with the knowledge and resources needed to give babies their best start in life. Healthy Start Home Visitors help parents to nurture their children's development and create a positive living environment. Services are offered from prenatal to age five.



Parents as Teachers Guilford County, YWCA High Point

Parents as Teachers® (PAT) provides parenting education and support to families from pregnancy until their child turns five and enters kindergarten. PAT focuses on encouraging parent/child interactions, understanding children's development and how it impacts a child's behavior and strengthening families. Parents as Teachers builds strong communities, thriving families, and children that are healthy, safe, and ready to learn by matching parents and caregivers with trained professionals who make regular personal home visits during a child's earliest years.

Literacy



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth until they turn five years old, no matter their family's income.



Family Literacy, Reading Connections

The Family Literacy Program (Motherread/Fatheread) at Reading Connections provides parents an opportunity to support their children's literacy development while improving their own literacy skills at the same time. Centered on the belief that parents are their children's first teachers, the program incorporates focused literacy instruction for parents and children, fostering both a habit and a love of reading among the families served.

Program Support



Awareness and Engagement, Guilford County Partnership for Children

Awareness and Engagement promotes the benefits of early childhood education in the community and provides information on programs and services available for young children, families, and educators.

Program Coordination & Evaluation, Guilford County Partnership for Children

Program Coordination and Evaluation works with Smart Start funded service providers to clarify and meet program goals and activities and supports the evaluation of each program.

Additional funds provide administrative funding for the Guilford County Partnership for Children, which may include providing essential administrative support such as HR, finance, and contracts.

NC PRE-K

NC Pre-K, Guilford County Partnership for Children

NC Pre-K is a pre-kindergarten program for eligible four-year-old children. The NC Pre-K program is offered at participating Guilford County Schools, GenerationEd (Head Start) sites, and licensed four- and five-star private childcare facilities. In the 2025-2026 school year there are 2,166 NC Pre-K slots in Guilford County. NC Pre-K services are offered at no cost to families who meet eligibility requirements.

Additional funds provide administrative support for the Guilford County Partnership for Children. Support may include family outreach, application assistance, eligibility determination, payment processing, annual recertification, and required reporting.

