



Hope for Children and Families News from Onslow County

Happy April from One Place! April is Child Abuse Prevention Month—and throughout the month, our team is sharing relevant resources and articles to support families, caregivers, and early childhood educators in Onslow County. All it takes is one safe, trustworthy adult to make a transformative difference in the life of a child.

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for updates and photos from our upcoming events!

Scroll down for the remainder of the newsletter



PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

One Place is a North Carolina leader in ending child abuse and neglect in Onslow County. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month—and we're sharing tips and recommendations on how to make our communities strong, safe, and nurturing.

UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGE

1 in 7

children experienced child abuse and neglect in the last year.

3,400+

cases of child abuse and neglect supported by the One Place Child Advocacy Center since opening in 2010

1,500+

cases of child abuse assessed in Onslow County in 2022

CHILD ABUSE IS A PREVENTABLE PROBLEM.

By building protective factors—or conditions that help children grow and families thrive—you can help prevent child abuse and neglect in your community.

Here are five strategies that help put an end to child abuse and neglect:



Building parental resilience



Creating healthy social connection



Accessing resources and concrete support



Strengthening
parenting skills

Fostering social-emotional
competence in children

OUR IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN ONSLOW COUNTY

Every program offered at One Place is designed to serve as a protective factor for children and families—from Early Head Start, to Child Care Resource and Referral, to Early Educator trainings.

When children are hurt through abuse, One Place provides hope and healing with comprehensive services at our One Place Child Advocacy Center.

YOU ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION. HELP US END CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT—TODAY.



BE A SAFE AND NURTURING PARENT.

Tell your children they're special, loved, and capable of anything.



HELP YOUR COMMUNITY.

Offer to lend a helping hand to your neighbors or relatives.



BUILD YOUR RESILIENCE.

Don't take out your emotions on your kids.



GET INVOLVED.

Connect with your greater community in Onslow County.



REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

Call the Onslow County Department of Social Services (DSS) at (910) 455-4145.

#WEARBLUEDAY24



Wear Blue Day

Each year, #WearBlueDay brings awareness to the prevalence of child abuse—and the importance of ending it in North Carolina. Our staff wore blue in commemoration of child abuse on April 5th.

In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, join us for one of our upcoming events!

Tour Our Child Advocacy Center

Curious to learn more about the Child Advocacy Center work that One Place does? Join us for an upcoming tour to get a behind-the-scenes look at the services provided to victims of child abuse and neglect in Onslow County.

[Contact us for a tour.](#)

YOU'RE INVITED



Join Us

Tour the One Place Child Advocacy Center and learn about the programs and services we provide to children and families in the community and our plans for the future.



900 Dennis Rd, Jacksonville, NC

910.938.0336

www.oneplaceonslow.org

Darkness to Light Training

Learn the basics of child abuse prevention. Register for Darkness to Light on **May 14 from 6:30-8:30pm**. This training helps participants identify and recognize the signs and symptoms of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Cost \$15. [Register for Darkness to Light.](#)

Explore Other Resources to End Child Abuse and Neglect

[Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Onslow County:](#) It is your job as an adult to protect children from dangerous and abusive situations. In North Carolina, it's required by law that all adults report any suspected child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment.

Happy Month of the Military Child!



Each April, we celebrate the courage and tenacity of our military families and children in Onslow County. Military children are some of the most adaptable, resilient individuals—and we're grateful to support them here at One Place.

Our community is home to approximately 10,000 children whose parents serve in the military stationed aboard Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River and we are proud to serve them through programs and services at One Place.

One Place offers several key resources for military families and children:

[Military Resources for Children and Families in Onslow County](#)

Providing support for military children is a top priority for One Place. We offer resources for military families, deployment, and children's mental health.

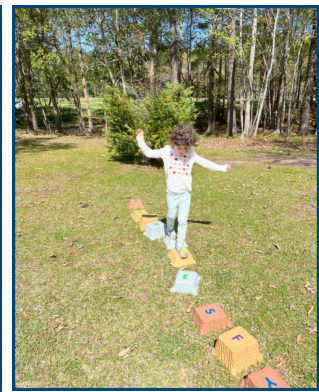
[Military Family Resource Roundup](#)

Military children face a distinct set of challenges—like frequent moves and family transitions associated with deployment. To support these difficult situations, One Place provides useful resources to aid families.

Celebrating Week of the Young Child



From April 6th through 12th, we celebrated **Week of the Young Child** alongside some amazing community partners. Week of the Young Child is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This fun-filled week spotlighted early learning, educators, families, and their communities. This work remains critical to our mission of supporting children, families, and early childhood educators in Onslow County. We can't wait to celebrate again next year!





Child Care Corner

During the COVID-19 pandemic, child care centers and family child care homes responded to the call to action and kept their doors open when child care was identified as essential to the workforce.

While many centers and family child care homes remained open, the child care industry was stretched, and North Carolina has already witnessed a reduction in child care slots for children and families. Without the support of federal funding throughout the pandemic and the NC Child Care Stabilization grants, surviving early childhood programs may face their own child care cliff on June 30th.

In February, The North Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral Council sent a survey to all licensed child care centers and homes to better understand the state's current child care landscape. The goal was to more fully comprehend the challenges that providers may face without funding from the stabilization grants.

More than 1,525 programs responded to the survey with an overall response rate of 28% that represented 961 child care centers and 568 family child care homes. Here are some key takeaways:

- 88% of programs expect to increase parent fees after the funding ends
- Two-thirds expect difficulty in hiring experienced and educated staff without the additional funding
- Almost 30% expect to close when the Stabilization Grants sunset – which could impact up to 91,000 child care slots when applied to the total number of programs in North Carolina
- When asked what support would be helpful, nearly 50% responded “increased funds for staff salaries”

The struggle across the early childhood industry for quality, compensation, and affordability remains a challenge. At One Place, our Chief Growth Officer is engaging in community conversations to better understand the needs in Onslow County and how best to support our early educators. Advocacy groups are working hard to send an urgent message to the NC Legislature of what is at risk for children and families across the state.

Access to child care is a community issue. [If you think that it is a priority for our community, reach out to the NC Legislature.](#)

Provider Spotlight

Data from the One Place Community Needs Assessment conducted in the summer of 2023 shows a decline in the total number of licensed child care programs from 81 in 2017 to 63 in 2022 which includes available space for summer care for school age children.

Abundance of Love and Learning Center recognized a need for summer care for school age children when school is out of session. Seeing this need in the community, the center shared information with parents and opened 19 spots for summer camp care for children ages 5-9. The center has planned literacy-rich activities, math enrichment, field trips to community locations such as parks and libraries, and more during the summer months.

"Our summer camp here at Abundance of Love and Learning Center will be a great advantage to our community. The students will have nutritious meals, be in a happy [and] safe learning environment...while having lots of fun. Never doubt a small group of thoughtful, committed, educated teachers changing one student..at at time." -*Melissa Campbell, Director of Abundance of Love and Learning Center*

Looking for summer care for your child? [Check out some options in our blog](#)



Don't Forget: Diamonds and Denim!



Join us on Saturday, September 21st, for an evening of networking, dancing, and celebrating—all while raising critical funds to support children and families and end child abuse in Onslow County.

[Become a sponsor today →](#)

Your Support Makes One Place Possible

Your donation today is an investment that provides hope and strengthens the lives of children and families in Onslow County.

We are grateful for our partnership with caring, reliable supporters like you. Thank you for believing in our mission.

Donate Now