



Hope for Children and Families News from Onslow County

It's February, and we LOVE serving children and families in our community- This month, we're highlighting the newest updates on child care, the importance of early literacy, and celebrating Black History Month and Family Support Awareness Month.

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

Child Care Corner:



Finding and retaining high-quality child care remains a challenge for many child care facilities across the country. Our newest column, **Child Care Corner**, shines a spotlight on the state of child care in Onslow County—from highlighting a particular center, to sharing updates on the latest trends.

Center Spotlight

This month, we're featuring **Sneads Ferry Quality Child Care**. This center signed up to work with [Building Bright Futures](#) and Apprenticeship NC as one way to address the child care crisis, by hiring and retaining quality staff.

These programs provide a framework for increasing staff training and education, while simultaneously helping raise early educator pay and standards in Onslow County and across the state of North Carolina.

Shannon Pope of Sneads Ferry Quality Child Care shares details on their partnership with Building Bright Futures and Apprenticeship NC:

"By implementing Building Bright Futures (BBF) and Apprenticeship NC in our centers, we will be able to provide much needed support and resources to our newly hired teachers and high school apprentices," says Shannon. "BBF brings forth opportunities our Apprentices can use to grow professionally as quality early childhood educators. In addition, our tenured and experienced teachers will share their wealth of knowledge and model best practice as Mentors. By partnering with Building Bright Futures and Apprenticeship NC, our centers can continue to provide quality education and care to our surrounding communities."

One Place is looking forward to partnering with Apprenticeship NC and Building Bright Futures to replicate the great things that Shannon Pope and her team are already doing in Sneads Ferry.

The State of Child Care in Onslow County

Onslow County is home to 35,325 children under the age of 12. However, the county is only licensed to serve 14% of children in our community that need child care. This underscores an enormous need for more trained and qualified staff to increase capacity—ultimately connecting more families with critical resources.

If you have questions about Building Bright Futures, Apprenticeship NC and the work that One Place is doing to bring these programs into Onslow County and its Early Childhood workforce, please contact Kara Darnell at kara.darnell@oneplaceonslow.org.

Register for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!



A significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is their introduction to books. Early childhood literacy is at the core of our work at One Place. One of our most popular programs is Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a book gifting program for children from 0 to 5. Each registered child receives a new, age-appropriate book each month, mailed directly to their homes.

If you or someone you know in the Onslow County community would benefit from enrolling in Dolly Parton's Imagination, text "BOOKS" to (910) 333-0608 to receive a registration link.

[Learn more about One Place's Early Literacy Programs here →](#)

Early Head Start Prenatal Services



HAVING A BABY IS A BIG CHANGE!

Start preparing now with EHS:

- Participate in monthly home visits
- Create family goals
- Track your baby's development
- Receive referrals to community resources
- Meet other moms in a warm, supportive environment
- Complete an application for your infant to participate in the EHS Child Care Partnership Program

LEARN ABOUT:

- Prenatal care
- Budgeting
- Breastfeeding
- Infant care
- Health and nutrition

To learn more or apply visit
www.oneplaceonslow.org/ehs
or call 910-938-0336



Pregnant women and families in Onslow County can enroll in the Early Head Start (EHS) Pregnant Woman and Expectant Families program and receive community-based support, training, and home visits. [Click here for more information](#) or to start an application today.

Celebrating Black History Month



February is Black History Month—and at One Place, we're sharing insightful resources highlighting the importance of racial equity. Even young children can adopt, enact, and interrupt racism and institutionalized discrimination—and so, cultivating racial awareness early in a child's life is critical.

[Read more about Black history and early childhood education from NAEYC here →](#)

Foundations for Resilience: The Energy Bus!

We're excited to announce the newest offering from Foundations for Resilience: The Energy Bus! This training program focuses on teaching participants how to harness the power of positive thinking through a fictional story, real-life examples, and interactive modules.

The Energy Bus model can help individuals and teams unlock the benefits of positive leadership, improve employee engagement, and build stronger relationships.

If you're a nonprofit or for-profit leader, The Energy Bus is a fantastic program for your team. [Learn more here →](#)



February is Family Support Awareness

Family Support Awareness Month celebrates ways in which family support services—such as home visitation or parent education—can strengthen children and families.

Research has found that these programs help build protective factors, reducing the risk of abuse and neglect, strengthening interfamilial relationships, and promoting healthy child development.

One Place offers several opportunities for parents and caregivers to learn more about parenting and education. [Learn more here →](#)

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