



## Hope for Children and Families News from Onslow County

July kicks off a new fiscal year for One Place and we're excited for what's in store! Progress continues daily on [SECU Hope Center](#), our permanent home, and we look forward to moving in and opening to the public next summer. While our address may change, our mission remains the same - to serve children and families in Onslow County with programs and resources that provide opportunities and hope.

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

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## News from the One Place Child Advocacy Center



The second week in July was National Forensic Interviewer Appreciation Week.

Forensic interviews are provided to children who may have experienced abuse or who have witnessed a crime or other violent act. It is a recorded interview, conducted in a supportive, non-leading manner, by a trained professional.

We're grateful to have a team of four forensic interviewers led by the Director of the Child Advocacy Center, the Clinical Services Director, and supported by family advocates and a program support specialist, who work tirelessly to ensure we provide the best forensic interviews to the children of Onslow County.

Due to the need in our community, our dedicated team is available 24/7, 365 days a year, for critical cases. Our team has conducted **179** forensic interviews since January 2024.

Learn more about forensic interviews [here](#).



The One Place Child Advocacy Center was recently approved for re-accreditation through the National Children's Alliance. We are so proud of our team!

*"It was obvious that your staff and team are very committed to the One Place CAC."*

-Pam Karalunas, Accreditation Site Reviewer, National Children's Alliance

A huge thank you to the CAC team for their hard work and dedication throughout the process, and each and every day serving children and families.

An essential part of our successful CAC is our Multidisciplinary Team. The partnerships and collaboration required for this work are critical to ensuring the children and families that come through the CAC receive the best service and care available.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the MDT and their work.

Congratulations to the CAC team and our MDT! Your unwavering dedication to the children in our community is unmatched!



Members of the One Place team recently joined Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina in Raleigh to meet with Representatives and Senators to discuss the role of the CAC and Multi-disciplinary Team in our communities; and the impact of VOCA funding cuts on service delivery. Our CAC stands be impacted by funding cuts to the tune of about \$200,000.

Our Child Advocacy Director and Coordinator of Partner Relations met with Rep. George Cleveland, Rep. Phillip Shepard, Rep. Carson Smith, and Senator Michael Lazzara to share the critical work of Child Advocacy Centers and our Multidisciplinary Team. We are so grateful for the opportunity to meet and speak with our elected officials!



## The Summer Slide

**PREVENT THE**  
**SUMMER SLIDE**  
**READING OVER THE SUMMER ENCOURAGES STUDENT SUCCESS IN THE FALL!**

**6** IDEAS FOR SUMMER READING WITH CHILDREN

1. Read with your child every day. It all adds up!
2. Talk with your child. Ask questions. Listen to the answers.
3. Borrow a book from a Little Free Library. Take a book. Leave a book.
4. Visit local Story Walk at the Parks. Get some fresh air, physical activity, and book time in the great outdoors. Story Walks are available at the following county parks: Onslow Pines Park, Hubert By-Pass Park, Deppe Park, Steed Park, and Stump Sound Park.
5. Get your very own library card and check out all types of books.
6. Register for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library! FREE books for all children under 5! Text 'BOOKS' to 910-333-0608 or visit [www.oneplaceonslow.org/dpil](http://www.oneplaceonslow.org/dpil)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Children who read 4-6 books during the summer can prevent declines in their fall reading scores.

Children need on average 4-6 weeks of "re-teaching" to learn the material they forget over the summer.

Children who read during the summer enter the school year with a more positive attitude toward reading, more confident about reading, and believe reading to be important.

Want to help families in our community prevent the summer slide? Drop off your gently-loved books (for all ages!) at our drop box to help keep Little Free Libraries throughout the county filled with books. The more than 70 [Little Free Libraries in Onslow County](#) help ensure everyone has access to books and help improve literacy rates for all. The drop box is located outside our office at 900 Dennis Road in Jacksonville and is available 24-7/365!

[Click here](#) for more information on our literacy programs.

## Make an Impact on the Future of Onslow County

We invite you to join a community of people who care about the children and families of Onslow County and want to help create a stronger, more resilient future for everyone who calls this community home.

By supporting Diamonds & Denim, our signature fundraising event, you're helping ensure the sustainability of our programs and services for years to come, and creating hope for future generations.



Mark your calendar and reserve your sponsorship today! You don't want to miss it!

[Click here to change the future of Onslow County](#)

## The Child Care Challenge



At One Place we know the current child care climate is challenging - not only for parents, but businesses and employers whose staff struggle to find high-quality, affordable, accessible care for their children.

[Read more about The Economics of Child Care in our blog](#) and then take the survey below if you're a parent/caregiver or business owner/operator impacted by the current state of child care in our community.

[Brief Survey: How Child Care Impacts Onslow County's Workforce Productivity](#)

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## Blogs

In case you missed the blogs we shared on social media this month, check them out:

- [How to Prepare Your Toddler for Preschool](#)
- [16 Years of Diamonds & Denim: A Celebration of Community and Commitment](#)