



Annual Impact Report

2024-2025

About Us

The Carteret Partnership for Children shines as part of the North Carolina Smart Start Network, which was established in 1993 to champion early childhood development.

The Partnership is dedicated to providing positive, meaningful, and developmentally appropriate experiences for children from birth to 5 years old.

Under the guidance of the North Carolina Partnership for Children, 77 local Partnerships thrive across 100 counties, each an independent beacon of hope, offering tailored programs and services that meet the unique needs of their communities.

Since 1999, the Carteret Partnership for Children has proudly served the children and families of Carteret County, focusing on early childhood education, family support, and nurturing child and family health.

MISSION

Strive to inspire, support and advocate for young children and their families in the areas of health, education and childcare

VISION

All children will have the best childhood possible in order to reach their full potential

Impact Snapshot

Increased understanding of the relationship between play and a child's development

Increased employment rates, especially among women with children ages birth-3 years

Increase in positive mental health outcomes for children and families

Improved Teacher knowledge

Increased access to books/Improved Early Literacy Skills

Improved access to developmentally appropriate materials for use by families & professionals

Improved ECE quality as a result of regular supportive interactions between a TA Specialist and Childcare Provider

Financial relief

Family Support Activities



Story Explorers: Kaleidoscope Play & Learn

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn provides weekly facilitated activities to parents/caregivers and children birth-5 years. The weekly facilitated playgroups include: Instructions for parents/caregivers on the importance of play and early learning, modeling of activities and purposeful interactions, coaching and guidance.

Basics Insights



Basics Insights (SMS Only) is a virtual SMS service for parents and caregivers with children birth to 5 years old that sends text nudges with parent education information. Basic Insights utilizes the Basic 5 Principles:

- Maximize Love, Manage Stress
- Talk, Sing and Point
- Count, Group, and Compare
- Explore through Movement and Play
- Read and Discuss Stories

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Monthly book gifting program to children birth-age 5. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write Dolly started her Imagination Library in 1995 for the children within her home county. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 1 million free books each month to children around the world.

Public Awareness

Public awareness and outreach activities increase the public's knowledge and understanding of early childhood systems, services, and resources.

FY 24/25 RESULTS



-121 caregivers engaged in early learning opportunities and support

-169 children participated in playgroups

-166 families received weekly text messages with uplifting parenting information.

-188 children impacted

-1332 children were gifted monthly books

-43 community presentations

-11 community outreach events



Early Childhood Education *Activities*



Childcare Resource & Referral

Activity designed to promote continuous quality improvement of childcare centers and family childcare homes.

- DCDEE Approved Provider Training
- TA Consultation and Coaching: Environment Rating Scales
- Lending Library
- Other Supports to ECE

Childcare Subsidy

Financial assistance paid to eligible families to help cover cost of childcare.

- Ratio Reduction Subsidy
- Better Beginnings Subsidy
- Public PreK Subsidy
- State DSS Subsidy

Child & Family Health *Activities*



Home-Based Family Therapy (Better Beginnings)

Home-based family therapy and case management to children at risk for negative outcomes later in life.

FY 24/25 RESULTS



-812 children impacted

-101 teachers attended trainings

-4 childcare facilities participated in ERS TA

-43 children received financial assistance for childcare

-36 children received services

-36 parents engaged



COMMUNITY DIAPER CLOSET



Most of us do not spend much time thinking about diapers. But if you are a parent without enough of them, they can become a source of stress, guilt, and desperation. 1 in 3 families report diaper insecurity. The Diaper Closet is funded through grants and private donations.

During FY 2024-2025

658 visits to the diaper closet

19,206 diapers were distributed to families and community partners

KIDS CLOSET

The Partnership has a Kids' Closet, which provides clothing for children ages newborn to 5 years old. The Kids' Closet also carries shoes, accessories, toys, and baby gear. All items are free and available to all families living in Carteret County.

During FY 2024-2025

460 visits to the Kids Closet



LENDING LIBRARY



The Partnership's Lending Library is full of educational materials, age-appropriate toys, games, books, and parent resources that childcare providers and families can check out to use in their classrooms or home environments. Membership is free! Members can check out up to 5 items and keep them for two weeks!

During FY 2024-2025

28 families visited the Lending Library

36 teachers visited the Lending Library

REAL MEN READ

The Partnership's Real Men Read Initiative is a volunteer-driven program that brings "MENtors" from the community into classrooms to read four different books throughout the course of the year. Students receive a book during each visit to take home to share with their families. The Partnership's Real Men Read Initiative is increasing access to books, highlighting the importance of early literacy, and promoting male role models in early education settings.

During FY 2024-2025

12 classrooms participated in Real Men Read

166 children impacted

644 books distributed



Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to promote the importance of early childhood education. The early childhood years lay the foundation for a child's later success in their academic and social life. Therefore, thoughtful investment in a child's early education and development can go a long way.

This year, the Partnership's CCRR team provided activities in local childcare facilities, highlighting each day's theme, providing the children with fun, creative, and educational experiences. The week also saw our Story Explorers'(KP&L) families exploring "Bunnies" and emphasizing parents' impact on their child's early development.

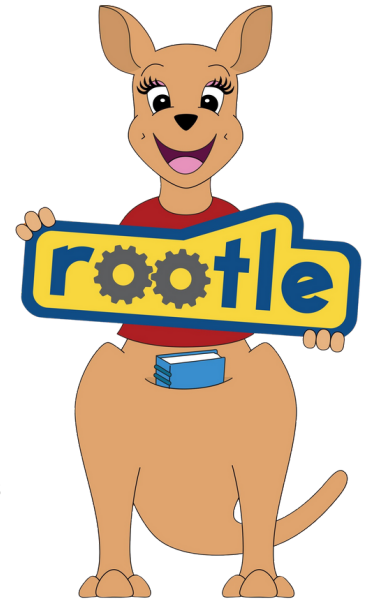


ROOTLE Ambassador Program

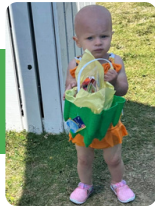
Juliet Rogers, the Executive Director of CPC, is our Rootle Ambassador for Carteret County. Rootle Ambassadors are exceptional community members who lend a helping hand to families with young learners throughout North Carolina.

These ambassadors are like local champions! They connect PBS KIDS and early learning resources to fit the unique needs of their communities. They're equipped with fun tools and ideas that make learning enjoyable for all kids, and they provide valuable training and experiences. Additionally, they foster a friendly community network for early childhood educators and families to connect and share.

By building on the success of the CPB-PBS Ready to Learn Community Collaboratives for Early Learning & Media Initiative, Rootle Ambassadors help PBS KIDS reach classrooms, communities, and homes across the state with engaging content and resources that spark excitement in children about learning.



In May, Pre-K students at the Carteret Preschool Center, along with families participating in Story Explorers' playgroups, got to dive into some exciting hands-on activities through the PBS KIDS Rootle Ambassador Program!



Exciting News at the Partnership's Lending Library Welcome to the Rootle Discovery Corner!

We're thrilled to share that families visiting our Lending Library can now enjoy the new Rootle Discovery Corner! It's a vibrant and playful space created just for kids to explore, learn, and have fun! Here, you'll find a treasure trove of free educational goodies—think awesome books, exciting literacy games, engaging STEM activities, hands-on learning tools, and delightful PBS KIDS materials. The Rootle Discovery Corner is designed with parents, caregivers, and educators in mind, offering simple and fun ways to help little ones build their school readiness and early literacy skills. It's all about learning through play—and the best part? It's completely FREE for everyone to enjoy!

Thanks to sponsorship by the Camber Foundation and support from PBS North Carolina, the big dream is to have a Rootle Discovery Corner in every county across North Carolina.





First Annual Santa Beach Run for the Kids

In December, the Carteret Partnership for Children held its' First Annual Santa Beach Run/Walk 5K. The starting line was the historic Atlantic Beach Circle. Runners dashed along the iconic scenic beach, raising money to help young children and families in our local community.

Runners were encouraged to get creative and dress up like Santa or in their most festive holiday attire. Prizes were awarded to top male and female 5K race winners and Best Dressed Team. The kiddos joined in the fun with a Reindeer Dash!

**2nd Annual Santa Beach Run will be held
December 6, 2025**



Crystal Coast Gymnastics
2024 Top Sponsor

\$20,000 RAISED



Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Allocated Funds
Administration-\$119,676
Early Care & Education -\$138,094
Family Support-\$59,320
Health-70,000
Subsidy-\$288,448
Monitoring & Evaluation -\$35,787
Fundraising-3,000

Total Funds
Smart Start Funds-\$711,325
Other Funds-\$37,000



Board of Directors

Vicki Wank	Director Carteret County Rape Crisis
Missy Vargas	Excel Learning Centers
Lucy Bond	At Large
Nic Carey	Crystal Coast Proud/Wild Arrow Hair Studio
Christina Miller	At Large
Mardell Miller	Easter Seals/ChildFirst
Kelly Dorman	Carteret County DSS
Kevin McCarthy, Secretary	Sound Choice Insurance
Michelle Querry, Treasurer	Chambers of Innovation
Stephanie Stevenson	Carteret County Cooperative Extension
Jennifer Johnson, President	At Large
Rebecca Marson, Vice President	Crystal Coast Gymnastics
Brittany Jannise	United Healthcare Community & State
John Pinder	Fire Marshal, Town of Beaufort
Jared Jones	Carteret Community College

Partnership Team



Juliet Rogers
Executive Director



Tara Willeford
Director of Programming



Deb Cook
Financial Director



Lisa Culpepper
Director of Childcare Resource & Referral



Kindra Hamilton
Coordinator of Family Services



Donors and Volunteers



Thank you to the myriad of volunteers and donors that have played a significant role in CPC's success this year: Carteret Partnership Board of Directors, National Charity League, Crystal Coast Young Men's League, West Carteret Future Teachers Club, Carteret County childcare facilities, NC Community Foundation, International Paper Foundation, Big Rock Foundation, parents, and countless other donors to our Kids Closet, Diaper Closet and fundraising efforts.

We couldn't have done it without your generous support!

Get Involved

- Communicate directly with state legislators.
For information on how to contact your elected officials, visit www.ncga.state.nc.us.
- Volunteer your time: Read to a child in a local childcare facility; participate in our special events; donate books to Story Explorers, donate children's clothing and diapers to our Kids Closet and Community Diaper Closet
- Make a tax-deductible donation to:
Carteret Partnership for Children
3328-A Bridges Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Carteret Partnership for Children
3328A Bridges Street
Morehead City, NC 28557
252-727-0440



SCAN ME

www.carteretkids.org



The Basics™

a partner
in the

smart star
network.