

PARTNERSHIP PULSE

...keeping with the beat of early childhood



FEBRUARY 2024



*Last month
in review!*

"I've decided to stick with
love. Hate is too great a
burden to bear." -
Martin Luther King Jr.





Take A Chance For Children Fundraising Raffle

Buy your electronic raffle ticket today for a chance to win a basket of lottery tickets. Tickets are \$5/each. 1 ticket = 1 entry. All funds raised from ticket sales will be used to support the Pampered Pantry. Winner will be drawn Monday, April 8th, 2024.

Diaper need is a crisis in our community. 1 in 3 families do not have access to adequate diapering supplies.

The Pampered Pantry provides free diapers and wipes to families in need and relies on community and monetary donations. We are currently serving **460 children** in Iredell County through the Pampered Pantry.

Thank you for your support in helping us make a change for children!

[Buy Tickets](#)



Donor Spotlight: Mooresville Public Library

Thank you to our friends at the [Mooresville Public Library](#) for hosting a diaper drive for our Pampered Pantry. They donated \$365.61 worth of diapers and wipes.

Our Pampered Pantry is entirely community-funded. If you are interested in hosting a diaper drive or learning more about the Pampered Pantry, click the button below.

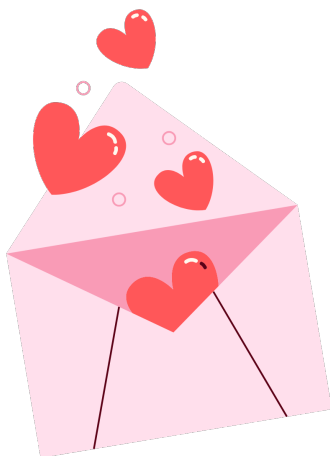
[Learn More](#)



Celebrate Valentine's Day with PBS Kids!

Valentine's Day is a great time to celebrate love, friendship, and kindness with family and friends. Click the button below for ways to spend time together with your loved ones by crafting and creating!

[Valentine's Day Ideas](#)



National Children's Dental Health Month

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Cavities, also known as caries or tooth decay, are the most common chronic disease of childhood, yet cavities are preventable. Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children who don't. Learn how you can protect your child's teeth from cavities with these resources.

[Learn More](#)

Staff Spotlight:



Lisa Pullis is Appointed Assistant Director and Celebrates 20 Year Milestone

Days before celebrating her 20th anniversary at ICPYC, Lisa Pullis has been named as the agency's first Assistant Director. In this new capacity, Lisa will be responsible for overseeing programmatic operations, ensuring contract compliance, and organizing fundraising and community outreach events. Since joining ICPYC in 2003, she has served in various critical roles of increasing responsibility including parent educator, professional development coordinator, director of child care solutions, and most recently serving in the position of program director. She serves as the vice president of public policy and advocacy on the National Association for the Education of Young Children State Board of Directors. Lisa also serves on the I-Care Inc./Headstart Board of Directors, the North Carolina State Pre-Kindergarten Board of Directors, as well as many local committees. Please join us in congratulating Lisa on her new role and this incredible milestone!



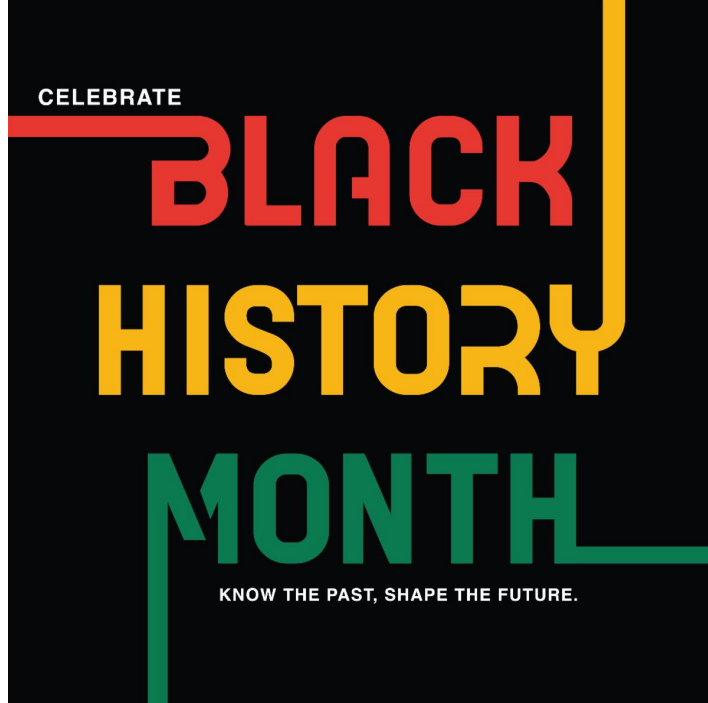
Meet Joanna, Director of Early Childhood Education

Joanna Smith has been named director of early childhood education after an extensive search. In this position, she will be responsible for the oversight of the early childhood education activities, ensuring the quality and integrity of all aspects of services provided, as well as the supervision of the early education staff. Joanna brings more than 25 years of experience in early childhood to the role. Most recently she served as an early childhood program consultant with Early Learning Solutions, LLC where she planned and coordinated projects impacting children, families, and early childhood educators. Prior to that position, she directed several early childhood programs, including NC Pre-K and Early HeadStart.



Meet Carden, Healthy Social Behaviors Specialist (Region 9)

Carden Millsaps joined ICPYC as a healthy social behaviors specialist for Region 9 Child Care Resource and Referral serving Alexander, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Iredell, McDowell, Mitchell, Watauga, and Yancey counties. In this position, Millsaps will be responsible for providing resources, training, and technical assistance to child care providers in licensed child care centers to assist in the development of pro-social classroom supports. She will also assist in identifying, preventing, and addressing challenging behaviors in young children in child care settings. Before joining ICPYC, Carden served as both a kindergarten and NC pre-K teacher at Scott's Elementary School where she provided high-quality learning experiences to young children.



Black History Month

Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today. Visit [Black History Month - National Geographic Kids](#) for more information or watch the video "Kids Explain Black History Month" below.



Safety Tip of the Month

As children begin to crawl and walk, falls become a serious concern. The following tips can help prevent serious injury to your mobile child.

- Use baby gates at the top and bottom of stairs. This works best if they can be mounted to the walls.
- Make sure to strap your baby into highchairs, carriers, swings, and strollers.
- Move chairs, cribs, and other furniture away from windows.
- Secure TVs and furniture to the wall using mounts, brackets, braces, anchors or wall straps to prevent large, heavy items from tipping over.
- Use a harness or safety belt when putting your child in a shopping cart.

[Learn More](#)



Make It Take It Event

Are you looking for a fun and engaging way to bring books to life while also developing children's early literacy skills? Story baskets are a great hands-on activity that encourages a child's imagination and language development.

Join us for our February Make It Take It where we will be creating story baskets to go along with some of your favorite stories. Bring your favorite book to create your story basket for! Call Pam Petty at 980.759.1520 to register and reserve your time slot.

Mooresville Date: 1/21/24
Statesville Date: 1/22/24

[View Flyer](#)



Zumbini with Delight

Created by Zumba® and BabyFirst™, Zumbini® is an early childhood education program that uses original music and movement to promote cognitive, social, fine/gross motor skills, and emotional development for children ages 0-4, all while creating the ultimate bonding experience for you and your child! Silliness and wacky dance moves are not required - but highly, highly encouraged.

Classes are held on Tuesdays from 11am-12pm at the Iredell County Public Library. Click the button below to register or learn more.

[Zumbini Information](#)

[View
ICPYC
FY 22-23
Annual
Report](#)



FRIENDLY
REMINDER:



Our offices are closed:

February 19, 2024 (Presidents Day)

The Iredell County Partnership for Young Children (ICPYC) is a public/private organization dedicated to measurably increasing learning and healthy development of children birth to age five in Iredell County. ICPYC provides services focused on raising the quality of early care and education, supporting families, advancing child health, and expanding literacy.



www.iredellsmartstart.org • [704-878-9980](tel:704-878-9980) • [Donate](#)

Iredell County Partnership for Young Children | 734 Salisbury Road, Statesville, NC 28677

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