

## Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership

409 Old Hertford Rd., Edenton, NC 27932

252-482-3035 phone [www.cp-smartstart.org](http://www.cp-smartstart.org)

September 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/cpspp>



**Mission:** To enhance early childhood development and school readiness.

Susan Nixon, Executive Director

MeShawn Hall, Early Education Director

Sarah Williams, Program Coordinator

Shante White, Family Support Coordinator

Debbie Miller, Admin/Program Assistant



## Playgroup—Kaleidoscope Play & Learn

### Helps Caregivers Promote School Readiness Skills

Parents, Caregivers, and Young Children in our playgroup are provided weekly lessons centered around promoting early childhood development, healthy living, and school readiness skills. The Playgroup meets weekly at either Perquimans or Chowan County Public Libraries. Our facilitators provide a different lesson each week along with an activity that reinforces learning.

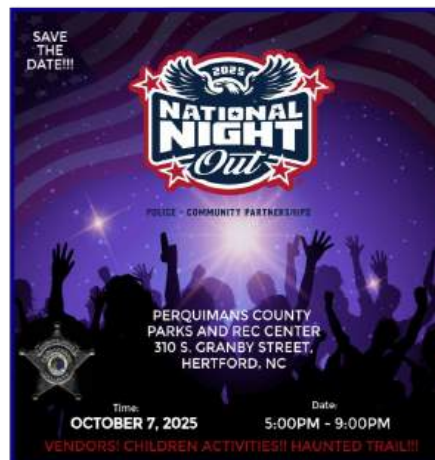
Registration for the playgroup is required—please call for more information.

Participants recently learned about shapes.



| 2025 Dates                   | Location                        | 2026 Dates                | Location                        |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| August 19 & 26               | Perquimans County Library       | January 6, 13, 20, & 27   | Perquimans County Library       |
| September 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 | Shepard Pruden Memorial Library | February 3, 10, 17, & 24  | Shepard Pruden Memorial Library |
| October 7, 14, 21, & 28      | Perquimans County Library       | March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 | Perquimans County Library       |
| November 4, 18, & 25         | Shepard Pruden Memorial Library | April 7, 14, 21, & 28     | Shepard Pruden Memorial Library |
| December                     | No Playgroup                    | May 5, 12, 19, & 26       | Perquimans County Library       |
|                              |                                 | June 2 & 9                | Shepard Pruden Memorial Library |

## Upcoming events!



Toys for Tots Applications will be accepted October 1–31 only. Applications may be downloaded from our website or may be picked up at the office.



**Lantern**

Because kids don't come with instructions.

We know parenting can be overwhelming. We're here to help, one text message at a time.

What to expect from our weekly text messages:

- Easy, practical tips and information for parents & caregivers.
- Messages timed exactly to your child's due date or date of birth.
- Information about free services and events based on your zip code.

Text NCKIDS to 274 448 for FREE parenting tips

Has & data rates may apply.

@Lantern | www.mylantern.org

In partnership with:

**Smart START**



NEW ONLINE COURSE

Pediatric First Aid and Safety Training for Teachers and Caregivers



REGISTER TODAY!

2e Pedialink American Academy of Pediatrics

To Register: <https://www.aap.org/Pediatric-First-Aid-and-Safety-Training-for-Teachers-and-Caregivers>

American Academy of Pediatrics  
345 Park Boulevard · Itasca · Illinois 60143 · 866/843-2271  
© American Academy of Pediatrics. All rights reserved.

## Stages of Block Play

### 0-12 Months:

Your infant will begin learning how to grasp and hold onto blocks around the 2-month mark. By 3 months, he may try to put the blocks you give him in his mouth, so make sure they're large blocks with no small or sharp pieces. By 7 months, your baby may use a raking motion with his hands to bring blocks on the floor closer to him, but it will be closer to 10 months before he can pick up blocks on his own with more control using the pincer grasp. Also, at the 10-month mark, he may study blocks a little closer to learn about their properties. You may find him banging blocks together to hear their noise or running his fingers along the tops to feel their bumps.

### 13-24 Months:

During your toddler's second year, you'll see him become more interactive with blocks. He may carry them around as he's learning to walk, toss them, or fill up and dump out containers with them. These acts are the building blocks of experimenting, which targets his cognitive skills, including problem-solving, early math, early science, and attention. Your toddler will spend most of his time with blocks thinking: "What if...?" and "Why?" For example, he might try to put two different types of blocks together and wonder why they don't fit. By 18 months, he can build towers of three to four blocks and may begin to use them more purposely, like building a "garage" for his toy cars. By 21 months, his towers will grow to six blocks, and by 23 months, he may have enough control in his fingers to manipulate smaller blocks.

### 25-36 Months:

Around 25 months, he'll begin to use problem solving to figure out different ways to use blocks. For example, he might continue to move blocks around and piece them together until he learns to make a square. By 27 months, your toddler will probably be able to build block towers with six or more blocks. Around the 28-month mark, he'll work with simple structures, like cars and houses. They may only contain a few blocks, but the basics will be there. He'll also be able to take apart his structures to rebuild them into the same object or something new.

Goto [support@babysparks.com](mailto:support@babysparks.com) for more childhood development tips.

**Many Block Sets are available for checkout from the Lending Library in Perquimans County and Shepard Pruden Memorial Libraries.**

For free activity ideas visit: [booksbythebushel.com](http://booksbythebushel.com), [teaching2and3yearolds.com](http://teaching2and3yearolds.com), [Sesamestreet.org](http://Sesamestreet.org), [pnc.com/grow-up-great](http://pnc.com/grow-up-great), [handsonaswegrow.com](http://handsonaswegrow.com), [ReadAloud.org](http://ReadAloud.org), [getreadytoread.org](http://getreadytoread.org). For information about community resources call NC211, or contact Sarah Williams at 252-482-3035.