

LE GRANDE NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Events

- **Fire Safety Week – October 5th – 9th**
- **Fire Department Visits on Tuesday, October 6th @ 9:30 am**
- **Picture Days –**
 - **Tuesday, October 6th for Caterpillars, Ladybugs, Alligators, Kangaroos, Monkeys, & Siblings**
 - **Wednesday, October 7th for Penguins, Butterflies, Squirrels, & Lions**
- **PTO Meeting – Thursday, October 8th @ 6:00 pm**
- **PreK Field Trip to Pumpkin Patch – Wednesday, October 14th**
- **EARLY CLOSURE: Friday, October 16th at 4:00 pm**
- **Fall Festival – Friday, October 16th 6:00–8:00 pm**
- **Pumpkin Patch (at center) – Tuesday, October 27th**

Dear Families,

PTO Meeting: Join us Thursday, October 8th at 6:00 pm – Join us for our final meeting before FALL FESTIVAL!

School Closures:

- **Friday, October 16th – Hickory City & Catawba County Pre-K Field Trip** – PreK Classes will be traveling to Johnny Wilson Pumpkin Patch on October 14th. Children will need a bagged lunch, comfortable clothing, tennis shoes, and need to be at the center by 8:45 am. Cost is \$20 per child
- Early Closure & Fall Festival** – We will close at 4:00 pm on Friday, October 16th to prepare for our Fall Festival from 6:00pm–8:00pm. Join us for some fall fun!
- Center Pumpkin Patch** – Each year we have a Pumpkin Patch experience at the center for every child to have the opportunity to pick out their very own pumpkin!! The cost is \$5 per child and you can pay using Zeffy or cash at the front desk.
- Outside Food Reminder to Families:** Per state child care requirements, outside food is not permitted in the center, except for approved parties or special events when the food is store-bought. Children arriving in the morning with fast food or other outside breakfast items will need to finish eating at home or in the car before entering the center. Thank you for understanding.

October 2026



Reminders

- **Payments:** We accept cash, check, money orders, and credit/debit card payments at the center or online through your Smartcare app. To receive discounted tuition, payments must be made one week in advance; otherwise, the regular rate will apply. Please ensure that you are making payments on time and in a timely manner.
- For families receiving DSS Assistance, fees must be paid weekly or biweekly by the 9th and 23rd of this month.
- To ensure we can continue providing quality care, accounts must remain up to date. Please be advised that any balance exceeding \$250 may result in termination of care for non-payment. We sincerely thank the families who consistently make timely payments and appreciate your cooperation.
- **Arrival/Pick-Up Reminder:** If you change your child's arrival time, please notify the administration to ensure proper staff coverage. **There is a state-mandated 10-hour time limit for children in childcare, so please be mindful of the time your child spends at the center.**
- **Drop-Off Policy-** The daily drop-off cutoff time is 9:30 a.m., which will be strictly enforced. Children arriving after this time will not be admitted for the day. If your child has a scheduled doctor's appointment that will result in a late arrival, please notify the center in advance and provide a doctor's note upon arrival. This policy is necessary to maintain proper staffing ratios and remain in compliance with state licensing requirements.
- **Quote for October:** *"The playfulness of October – with its costumes and candy – reminds us to keep our inner child alive."*

Warm Regards,
Mrs. Pam Ussery
Director, LeGrande Learning Center

Family & Community Resources

CATAWBA COUNTY

Need a little extra support? You're not alone!

Catawba County has many wonderful programs available to support children and families. Whether you need parenting support, diapers, food assistance, help with bills, mental health resources, or simply aren't sure where to start, these organizations can help connect you with the right resources.



738 4th Street SW, Hickory
828-695-6565

A great place to start!

The Children's Resource Center and Catawba County Partnership for Children connect families with a wide variety of **FREE or low-cost early-childhood and family resources**, including:



Our Nest Diaper Pantry

Emergency diapers for Catawba County families. Families may receive diapers once per month, up to six times per year. Availability varies, so call before visiting.



Triple P – Positive Parenting Program

FREE parenting classes, groups and consultations with practical strategies for everyday parenting challenges.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Free books for eligible young children.



Parents as Teachers

Home-based parent education and child-development support.



Child Care Resource & Referral

Help locating child care and understanding quality child care.



NC Pre-K & Kindergration Transition Resources



PEEPs – Parents Encouraging & Empowering Parents



Ready to Read, Little Free Libraries & early-literacy resources



Family resource referrals

Call when you're not sure where to turn; staff can help connect you with community programs.



Food, Medicaid, Child Care & Financial Assistance

Catawba County Social Services

Can assist eligible families with:

- Food & Nutrition Services (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Child care assistance
- Work First
- And other family-support programs.



828-695-5600



Food • Rent • Utilities Clothing • Medical Needs

Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry (GHCCM)

Families experiencing financial hardship can contact GHCCM regarding available assistance and referrals for needs such as food, clothing, healthcare and financial emergencies.



828-327-0979



31 1st Ave SE, Hickory, NC 28602



Need Help Finding the Right Resource?

NC 2-1-1

2-1-1

Simply dial 2-1-1.

NC 211 can help families locate assistance with food, housing, rent/utilities, healthcare, transportation, clothing, emergency shelter and other community needs.



Community Health Workers FREE Help Navigating Resources

Catawba County Public Health's Community Health Workers are available to anyone living in Catawba County. They can help families locate food, housing and utility assistance, transportation, healthcare, employment resources, diapers/baby items and more – and can even help with applications and forms.



828-695-5800 (Catawba County Public Health)



Mental Health & Emotional Wellness

Catawba Valley Healthcare – Hickory Clinic

Provides community-based mental/behavioral health services and integrated healthcare in Hickory.

828-695-5900

Partners Health Management

- Member & Resource Help: 1-888-235-4673
- 24/7 Behavioral Health Crisis Line: 1-833-353-2093



FREE Mental Wellness Resources CredibleMind

Catawba County provides free, confidential online mental-health and wellness resources for ages 14+, including assessments, stress/anxiety resources, videos, apps, articles and other tools. Available in English, Spanish and Hmong.



Mental Health Crisis Support — 988

Call or text **988** for free, confidential, 24/7 crisis support for yourself or someone you are concerned about.

*Asking for help
is a sign of strength.*

If your family needs assistance and aren't sure where to begin, **Children's Resource Center (828-695-6565)** or **NC 2-1-1** are two great places to start.