

Gaston County NC Pre-K Administrative Committee
November 18, 2021
1:00 p.m.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85898447701?pwd=aDJ6THlCZS9yVXR0V2FUb0ZKOWhvZz09>

Agenda

- A. Call to Order
- B. Adoption of Agenda - Action*
- C. Public Comments
- D. Approve minutes of 09/01/2021 [Link to audio](#) - Action*
- E. Enrollment Updates = 809 placed out of 882 slots (92%)
- F. NCPK Teacher Approvals and Rates
- G. NCPK Funding Updates (as of 11/16/21):
 - a. NCPK Direct Service Funds: \$5,049,450 - \$1,502,373 = \$3,547,077
 - b. NCPK Administrative Funds: \$297,492 - \$73,502 = \$223,990
 - c. CCDF Funds: \$100,759 - \$18,959 = \$81,800
 - d. Contract Amendment: \$106,938
- H. COVID-19 Updates
- I. November 24, 2021: Remote Learning Day
- J. LETRS Cohort
- K. Family Engagement Plan (revised) - Action*
- L. NC Pre-K Site Selection Process - Action*
- M. Other Business
- N. Adjournment



Gaston County NCPK Program

Family Engagement Plan

The Gaston County NCPK Program recognizes family engagement as an important part of the Pre-K program. Research shows that meaningful engagement of families in their children's early learning supports school readiness and later academic success. Parents are a child's first and most important teachers, and opportunities to build relationships with families are critical. It is crucial that early childhood programs implement strategies for developing partnerships with families.

Gaston County NCPK incorporates a variety of strategies into its Pre-K program. Some of these are required for all participants; others are suggested strategies.

All sites are required to offer the following family engagement strategies to Pre-K families:

- **Home visits**

Each family is offered a home visit before school begins in the fall (or prior to school entry.) The Pre-K teacher and teacher assistant schedule, in advance, a meeting with the child and his/her family at their convenience. This visit gives the child and family a chance to meet the Pre-K staff in an environment comfortable for the family. The focus of this visit is to get to know the child and answer any questions the family might have. Often teachers will take a family photo or have the child draw a picture to display in the child's cubby at school, etc. The home visit is not a lengthy visit, but an important first step in relationship building.

- **Family Handbook**

All families are provided a Pre-K Family Handbook upon Pre-K enrollment. This handbook includes information about the Pre-K program, including eligibility/placement, curriculum, program policies, the school calendar, etc. This handbook is available in both English and Spanish.

- **Pre-K Orientation**

Each Pre-K site schedules an orientation time for the Pre-K family and child. At this time, the family gets to see the Pre-K classroom and interest areas, review the daily schedule, confirm arrival/departure procedures and much more.

- **Family Conferences**

Pre-K family members are invited three times during the school year to review and discuss the Pre-K child's progress (strengths and areas that need more work) in the classroom. The Pre-K teacher shares the Family Conference Form (Teaching Strategies GOLD) and provides a copy of this to take home. During the conference time, the family is free to discuss the child's progress, and the Pre-K teacher may suggest some ideas to work on at home.

- **START Sessions (Share Time and Read Together)**

Gaston NCPK has required Pre-K teachers to offer a monthly START meeting for Pre-K families for many years. This program is based on the MOTHEREAD program begun in North Carolina in 1987. These informal gatherings give the Pre-K staff an opportunity to introduce quality children's literature and emphasize the importance of reading, language and literacy. If possible, a book is provided for take home.

- **ReadyRosie**

Access to ReadyRosie, an online platform which includes video modeling, family workshops, professional development opportunities, and mobile technology, is provided for all NC Pre-K programs in order to support increased

engagement and partnership with families. NC Pre-K programs are required to enroll all NC Pre-K families in the ReadyRosie solution and must incorporate ReadyRosie resources into their existing family engagement plans.

Other opportunities for family engagement are provided, but are optional for NCPK sites. These include:

- Field trips
- Visiting in the classroom
- Family Advisory Council membership
- Parent workshops
- Family activities/projects to work on together at home
- Calendar and newsletters
- Celebrating special events/holidays

- School committees
- Informing families about Ready Rosie, Vroom, Ready4K and other apps that provide activities families can do at home with children

(updated 11-16-21)