



Ten Ways to Advocate

What is Wake County SmartStart?

Wake County SmartStart works to ensure that children, birth to 5, are successful in school and in life. To that end, Wake County SmartStart convenes stakeholders to assess local needs; funds local programs; ensures accountability and leverages resources to support young children and families.

Wake County SmartStart prioritizes community needs and provides funding to projects that focus on the following areas: 1) kindergarten readiness; 2) available and accessible quality child care, and; 3) safe and supportive home environments.

For the 2011-2012 fiscal year, Wake County SmartStart is funding 10 partner agencies managing 15 community programs, including the North Carolina Pre-kindergarten (NC Pre-K) program, formerly known as More at Four.



Did You Know?

20,000 Wake County children, birth to 5, benefited from community programs funded by Wake County SmartStart last year.

Ten Ways to Advocate for Young Children and Families

1. Support community leadership that cares for young children and their families.
2. Know the issues affecting young children and their families on local, state and federal levels. Read our Web site, follow us through social media and read the local paper. Find out how legislative decisions impact families.
3. Build your knowledge base today. Sign-up for free e-mail alerts through Wake County SmartStart's Web site: www.wakesmartstart.org.
4. Join North Carolina Child Care Coalition, an organization that represents early childhood educators across the state. See out additional advocacy groups, such as [The Covenant with North Carolina's Children](#) and [NC MomsRising](#).
5. Attend an advocacy event, such as Tuesday for Tots during the legislative session to speak directly with your legislators. Bring along a success story!
6. If you are a Chamber member, attend state and local legislative committee meetings to ensure the county has a focus on early care and education. If you are not a member, consider joining to have your voice heard.
7. Contact your local County Commissioners to ask for their support in making early care and education a priority for Wake County.
8. Volunteer your time to help organizations that serve young children, especially around an issue or service you care about. Write a letter to a legislator or the media.
9. Engage the public around key issues. Help pass along important information within your networks to engage more people to care about services for young children.
10. Donate to a local advocacy group and when decisions are pending and you receive a call for help, please call, e-mail, write, or visit your local legislators and voice your concern/support. Most often, you have to act fast!

