



Summer is here! Let's have fun, but let's make sure that children in our community keep learning! Thankfully, there are lots of summer learning opportunities in our two counties and many of them are free! Below are just a few of the options available and hopefully enough to get you thinking about how to support summer learning in your family. Please take a moment to check them out and share with your friends.

### **Visit Discovery Park!**

Our Discovery Park is a fun place to take a walk, perform on a stage or just run and play in the natural areas. The oodle swing and climbing equipment offer lots of fun for kids of all ages. The park is open to the public from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week. Bathroom facilities are available seasonally during the Family Resource Center's operating hours.

### **Join Your Local Library Reading Club**

Check out your local library! Check out summer reading programs at your local library. **Braswell Memorial Library** kicked off its summer reading club last week. [Check out their website for other story times and events!](#) **Edgecombe County Memorial Library** also started its summer reading program. [Visit their website for more information.](#) In Nashville, the **Harold D. Cooley Library's** Summer Reading Program will kick off with a performance by the Sciencetellers group on June 23rd at 4:00pm. [To learn more visit their website here!](#)

**Dolly Parton Imagination Library.** Sign up for the [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#) - free to all children under the age of 5. A book will be delivered to your home each month until the child turns 5! Click here: [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#)

### **Visit an Elementary School Park**

Visit updated elementary school parks that are open to the community. The schools are Baskerville Elementary, Coker-Wimberly Elementary, G.W. Bulluck Elementary, G.W. Carver Elementary, and Williford Elementary.

### **Cook a Healthy Meal Together**

This combines reading, math and following directions. Let your child help develop the menu. The [Kids Cook Monday](#) site is a great resource for recipes. Also visit DEPC's [Snap-Ed page](#) for more ideas.

## Take a Picnic to the Park

Take a hike or field trip and keep a journal. Remember to drink lots of water! Check out the Newly Updated Places to Play Map to find all the options! [Click this link to download the map!](#)



## Join a *Play and Learn Group* at DEPC

Come join us in Discovery Park on these Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

**June 21 & 28, July 12 & 26, August 2 & 9.**

To register, call Jennifer at 252-985-4300, ext. 270 or email [jcobb@depc.org](mailto:jcobb@depc.org).

## Come play at DEPC's Indoor Play Room on *Free Play Fridays*

DEPC's indoor play room is available every Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for Free Play Fridays. Parents and children are encouraged to take advantage of the variety of developmentally appropriate play centers in the play room and meet new families in the area with young children.

**No registration required.**

## Pet a Zebra in Pinetops

Have you ever wanted to pet a zebra, have a lemur sit on your shoulder, or bounce beside a kangaroo? It's a Zoo Life is open to tours by appointment only this summer. Visit [www.itsazoolife.com](http://www.itsazoolife.com) to schedule an appointment.

## View the Stars

Visit the Children's Museum & Science Center at the Imperial Centre's planetarium or check out the camps and classes available this summer. Explore the museum [web site](#) for upcoming events for children and families to enjoy together.

## Take a Field Trip to the Sylvan Heights Bird Park

Sylvan Heights Bird Park is designed to give visitors an unforgettable up-close experience with over 2,000 waterfowl, parrots, toucans, flamingos, and other exotic birds from around the world. The Park is located in Scotland Neck. Children 2 and under may visit for free. Adults cost \$11, Children ages 3 to 12 cost \$8 each.

## Sign up for a local camp, VBS or class!

Don't forget to check out the many Vacation Bible Schools happening at a church near you.

[Peacemakers Freedom School](#), [Boys and Girls Clubs](#), [Word Tabernacle's Impact Center](#) and the [Harrison Family YMCA](#) are also geared up for summer learning, as well as many child care providers who offer special summer camp programs. The Parks and Recreation Departments in Nash and Edgecombe counties have many programs and activities. See what's happening in your community: [Nash County Parks and Recreation](#), [Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation](#), [Nashville Parks and Recreation](#), [Tarboro Parks and Recreation](#)

## Enjoy Your Summer, Stay Connected!

There are many more summer resources in our area and we could not mention them all. Visit our Facebook page and let us know other ways to keep learning this summer!



Please check the DEPC web site this summer for other fun play and learning opportunities. Summer Feeding sites are also on the website. Remember, you can reach Family First Counselors at 252-985-4300 who are available to match your needs with community resources.

## Building Blocks Newsletter: July - September

### Putting Families First

Check out the latest edition of the Building Blocks newsletter, designed Family First to provide resources and information for parents in Nash and Edgecombe counties.

[Click here to see the July-September edition!](#)

## Summer Feeding Kickoff!

Our Thanks to Cummins for Supporting the Read to Rise and Summer Feeding Programs

We all know that healthy eating is tied to successful learning and that's true in summer too. Healthy eating is hard all year long, but can be especially challenging during the summer when school breakfast and lunch isn't happening. During the summer when school is out of session, free and nutritious meals are available for children 18 years and younger at many locations throughout the community. To see the sites in our area, please visit the [DEPC web site](#) or [www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks](http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks).

Representatives from various summer feeding sites came to DEPC this week to receive Summer Learning materials as well as training about ways to enhance their summer feeding site. Many thanks to Jackie Deloach of Cummins for providing the welcome. Cummins is sponsoring the Twin Counties Read to Rise campaign with Summer Learning being a primary focus.



Look for these signs at area Summer Feeding sites



Contact: Henrietta Zalkind, Executive Director  
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