



## Hope for Children and Families News from Onslow County

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter! Each month, you'll find information about One Place programs and services, early care and education, and more.

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for photos and updates about what's happening at One Place.

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### Child Mental Health Matters

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month**, a time to highlight the importance of emotional well-being for all—especially our youngest community members. Children's mental health lays the foundation for lifelong success in relationships, learning, and emotional resilience.

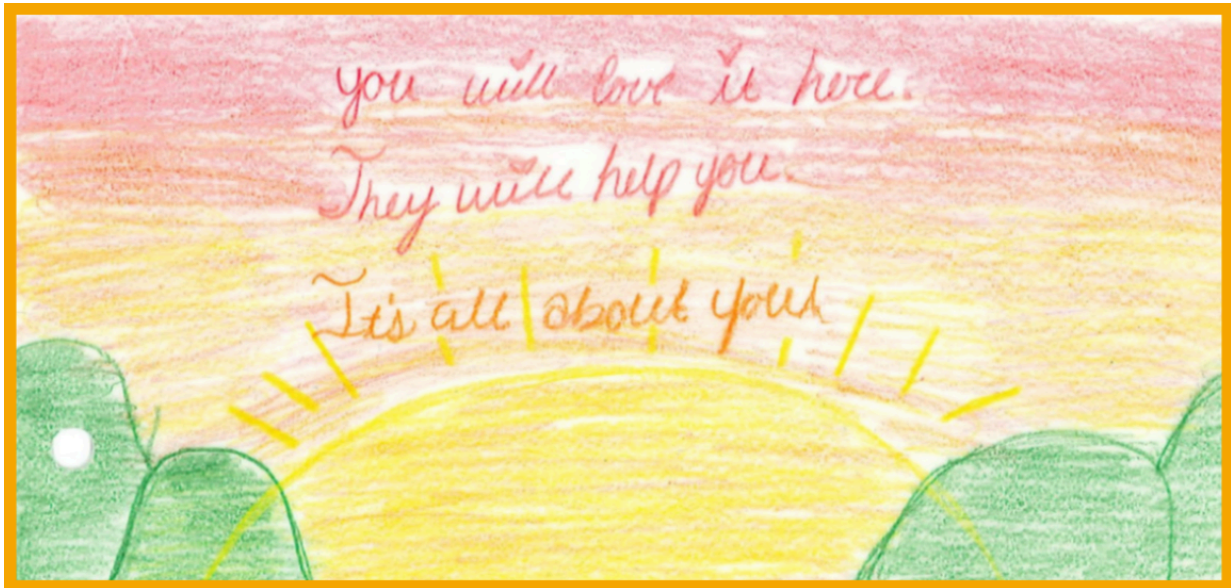
At One Place, we recognize that early experiences shape the developing brain, and we are committed to supporting children's mental health through trauma-informed services. Our programs nurture social and emotional development by helping children build the capacity to experience and regulate emotions, form secure relationships, and explore the world around them in safe, supportive environments.

We also empower parents, caregivers, and early educators with tools and training to foster positive, responsive interactions that promote healthy development.

When victims of child abuse and neglect receive services in the One Place Child Advocacy Center, they are connected to on-site mental health services to help them heal.

If you're a parent/caregiver looking for ways to nurture your child's mental health, check out our guide : [How to Support Your Child's Mental Health](#)

To support the future of child mental health services at One Place, [click here to donate to our endowment](#).



*'Artwork by a child receiving services in the Child Advocacy Center*

## Child Care Check-In

One Place recently convened a panel of experts to discuss the documentary short film ["Take Care"](#) and North Carolina's child care crisis.

*"What gives me hope are the days that I spend in early childhood classrooms with caregivers and educators. We, as an early childhood team at EdNC, believe that care is education and education is care. The more we understand that the better we'll be..."* -Liz Bell, Education Reporter with EdNC (featured in "Take Care")

Thank you to all of our panelists:

- Liz Bell, [EducationNC](#)
- Samantha Cole, [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#)
- Leanna Martin, [NC Child](#)
- Kathryn Wessell, [Catalyst Church](#) Child Care/One Place Board Member
- Kim Gipson, Marine & Family Programs/MCCS Lejeune
- Katlyn Morin, Parent representative and Chair of the Early Head Start Policy Council with One Place.

Watch the full panel discussion linked below.



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## Safe Kids Corner

May is Safe Kids Month!

Did you know that One Place serves as the lead agency for the Safe Kids Coalition in Onslow County? We also have four staff members who are certified child passenger safety technicians.

Every year, children across the country are injured in preventable events. Safe Kids is a national organization dedicated to protecting children from unintentional injuries by sharing education programming to reduce traffic injuries, drownings, falls, burns, and other tragedies.

Onslow County has a Safe Kids chapter that supports families in our community with car seat installation, car seat check-ups, safety workshops, and other events to help prevent childhood injuries.

[Click here to read more about Safe Kids Month and Summer Safety.](#)

Follow our local coalition [Safe Kids Onslow County.](#)



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Team One Place is Growing!



We're excited to welcome Scott Playford, MD, to the One Place team as our Chief Medical Officer/Child Advocacy Center Director!

*"I believe children thrive and flourish with positive support and role models around them, but many children are not lucky enough to have that. Sometimes it only takes one moment or encounter in a child's life to change their direction in life for the better. I believe that is how you break the pattern of abuse and dysfunction."*

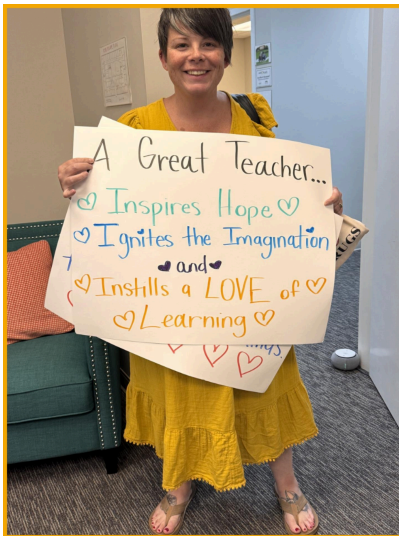
Please help us welcome Dr. Playford to One Place to work on behalf of children and families in Onslow County.

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## Teacher Appreciation Week

We celebrated the incredible early educators of Onslow County who lay the foundation for lifelong learning and growth during Teacher Appreciation Week. We hosted three separate events to honor these amazing individuals who shape the future of our community.

Their dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds is truly inspiring. We are so thankful for the difference they make every day in the lives of our children and our community.





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## Blogs

In case you missed the blogs we shared on social media this month, check them out:

- [What is Evidence-Based Curriculum and Why Does it Matter?](#)
- [4 Tips for Choosing Safe, High-Quality Child Care in Onslow County](#)

## One Place in the News

- [This Child Abuse Prevention Model is Making a Difference in Onslow County](#)
- [Sneads Ferry Rotary Works to Raise \\$1Million for Child Mental Health](#)
- [One Place Hosts Community Services Day](#)
- [One Place Honors Onslow County Teachers During Teacher Appreciation Week](#)
- [One Place Brings Awareness to Child Safety through Safe Kids Onslow County Program](#)

