



Hope for Children and Families News from Onslow County

Welcome to this month's edition of the One Place newsletter—your go-to source for the latest updates on our programs, services, and all things early care and education. We've got helpful resources, inspiring stories, and upcoming events to keep you connected and informed.

Stay in the loop! Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to see behind-the-scenes photos and catch real-time updates on what's happening throughout One Place.

One Million Books-One Million Possibilities

This month, Onslow County celebrates a remarkable milestone: **1 MILLION BOOKS** delivered to children through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library! That's one million stories shared, imaginations sparked, and futures strengthened—one book at a time.

From the first board book to cherished bedtime tales, these gifts are more than just stories—they're building blocks for lifelong learning. Imagination Library books help children:

- Develop early literacy skills for academic success
- Expand vocabulary and communication
- Strengthen bonds through shared reading
- Discover new cultures, ideas, and worlds
- Dream boldly and believe in their own stories



Thanks to the generosity of this program and the heart of our community, every child—no matter their background—has access to the magic of reading. As Dolly Parton reminds us, “You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children.” Onslow County is living proof.

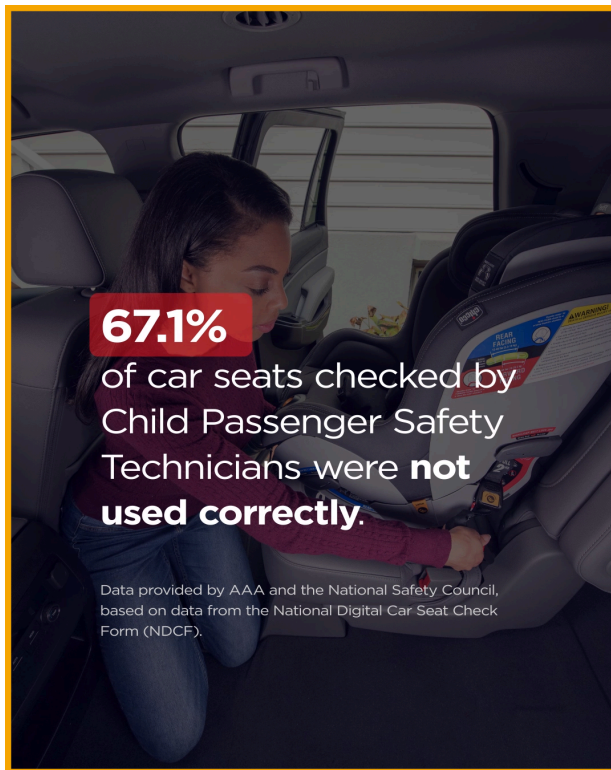
With recent changes to state funding, community support is more vital than ever to keep this program thriving. Let's send the next million books. Let's inspire the next million dreams. [Click Here to Donate Today.](#)

Buckle Up for Safety: Spotlight on Child Passenger Safety Week

This month, we celebrated Child Passenger Safety Week.

Did you know that we have four certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians here at One Place in partnership with [Safe Kids Onslow County](#)?

Having a car seat correctly installed can reduce the risk of death by as much as 71%. Need your car seat checked? **Call or Text "SafeKids" to (910) 333-0608** to schedule an appointment with one of our awesome techs.



Diamonds & Denim: A Night to Remember

What a night!

Diamonds & Denim 2025 was a moving celebration of hope, resilience, and community spirit. We're deeply grateful to every sponsor, supporter, and guest who brought their heart and purpose to the event.

Your generosity fuels our mission: strengthening children, connecting families, and working to end child abuse. But the journey doesn't end here. With your continued support, we're creating a future where every child is safe, every family is supported, and every voice is heard.

Let's keep the momentum going—because together, we're making lasting change.



The Power of Early Investment



Every child in North Carolina deserves a strong start, and that takes intention, investment, and action.

This September, North Carolina recognized Smart Start Month for the second year in a row, providing a chance to spotlight the real, local impact of early childhood investments, and to push for more of what works.

The first five years of life shape everything that follows, from school readiness to lifelong health and economic mobility. At One Place, we know what it takes to give children and the adults that care for them the support they need right from the beginning, and we are proud to be part of the Smart Start Network, making that happen across all 100 counties in our state.

We work to:

- Increase access to and enhance the quality of early care and education
- Collaborate with families to reach their goals through family support and education, engagement, and referrals
- Improve child health and development for children birth-to-five.

"Smart Start has been the cornerstone of our work since our inception in 1998. As the youngest community in North Carolina with a consistently high birth rate, services and support for our children and young families are critical to a long and productive life," said Dawn Rochelle, chief executive officer at One Place. "With much of our community connected to the military and geographically separated from their families, we become the place that they know they can ask a question and find a connection."

To learn more about our work, visit www.oneplaceonslow.org.

Blogs

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

- [Back to School 2025: Tools to Help Keep Children Safe Online](#)
- [Building a Foundation for Resilience: What Early Educators Should Know](#)
- [Growing Up](#)

One Place in the News

- [Gov. Stein declares September 2025 Smart Start Month | WNCT](#)
- [One Place Celebrates 2nd Annual Smart Start Month](#)
- [Diamonds and Denim Fundraiser to Benefit One Place](#)