



VOLUNTEER PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Early Childhood Supply Drives

For questions about this project or to learn more about volunteering contact Nikki McDougald, Community Outreach Coordinator, at (919) 723-9292 or nmcdougald@wakesmartstart.org.

Supply and Book Drives

Supply drives held throughout the year provide child care centers and early childhood programs needed items that support and enhance their work. Examples of supply drive donations include classroom materials, books for young children, baby nursery needs or a hats and mittens drive.

WCSS is a partial funder of Wake Up and Read, the countywide literacy initiative that provides resources to foster literacy and hosts an annual book drive. The drive collects and distributes over 100,000 books. WCSS helps identify 20 child care centers where young children will benefit from having a “library” of books in their home. Drives focused on books for young children are a great way to support this effort, but are also appreciated all year long. Additionally, WCSS can help identify parenting programs that would greatly benefit from books given to support their families.

How this Type of Project Helps

- When the community supports early childhood sites with needed supplies, children and teachers have the necessary tools for learning.
- Materials donated to classrooms help strained budgets and expand activity options.
- Research shows that when children have several books in their home to choose from, their early literacy experience is richer and the potential for reading success is greater.



See the reverse side for a list of items needed for early childhood classrooms.



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Classroom Materials Drive

Below is a list of needed items used by early childhood classrooms and parenting programs:

Children

Washable markers
Large size crayons
Fiskars child scissors – blunt tip scissors
Multi-colored construction paper
Washable tempera paint
Washable watercolor paint
Multi-sized paint brushes
Mittens/hats for cold weather
Liquid glue in bulk
Glue sticks (bottles are hard to squeeze)

Teachers

Softie tissues
Post-it notes
Sharpies
Pens and pencils
Fiskars adult scissors
Masking and/or clear tape
Fun stickers
Digital minute timer (*for determining proper timing for surface sanitation*)

Size of Volunteer Team

Small (10 or fewer)
Large (11 + or more)

Minimum Number of Supplies

Once a site is selected for donation, supply quantities can be determined. In some cases, like book drives, any quantity can be useful.

Volunteer Team's Responsibilities

- Gather/purchase donation items
- Sort and bundle donations for delivery
- Distribute donations

Wake County SmartStart's Support of the Project

- Provide a sample budget
- Answer questions to support the planning process
- Assist with locating a child care center or program for the donation and help coordinating delivery
- Share the story of your support to inspire others