



What is Farm to Child Care?

Simply put, Farm to Child Care (F2CC) in Wake County is about bringing North Carolina grown fruits and vegetables into child care facilities for meals and snacks.

Farm to Child Care is an extension of the Farm to School/ Farm to Preschool efforts across the United States. Farm to Preschool is about connecting young children with local foods.

Child cares are incorporating local foods through:

- meals and snacks
- growing food
- taste tests
- lessons and activities
- farmer visits
- cooking
- Community/parent engagement.

Child care facilities that grow fruits, vegetables and herbs have a wonderful tie-in to purchasing NC produce from farmers and other produce providers and are able to deepen childrens' connections to where food comes from and strengthen experiential learning opportunities.

Across the Nation and in Wake County

Farm to Preschool began emerging in different ways in 2007 and has developed further with programs now in cities in a number of states. In **North Carolina**, Wake County is pioneering local produce purchasing.

In **Wake County**, Farm to Child Care explorations began with a small pilot in July-August 2013, funded by a John Rex Endowment grant designed to learn about the barriers and opportunities for child care facilities in Wake County to purchase and serve locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Advocates for Health in Action (AHA) led that grant with partners WCSS and Cooperative Extension and several excellent pioneering child care centers in Wake who helped the learning process. In August 2014, the John Rex Endowment awarded WCSS a three-year grant to work in partnership with AHA and Cooperative Extension to expand Farm to Child Care widely in Wake County, specifically among child care facilities serving low-income children.

Managed by Wake County Smart Start in collaboration with Advocates for Health in Action and Wake County Cooperative Extension
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Farm to Child Care is supported through a grant funded by the John Rex Endowment.

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