

# WAKE COUNTY FARM TO CHILD CARE

A Partnership between  
Wake County Cooperative  
Extension & Wake County  
Smart Start

APRIL 2019

## Making Connections

connecting local farmers to  
early care and education  
facilities

The Wake County Cooperative Extension local foods agent, Carol Mitchell, was one of the creators of the Wake County Farm to Child Care project. As a Wake County Smart Start board member she had the idea of connecting child care programs to local foods and helped write grants to support the development of this project.

The **local foods agent** was the connector to the local farmers in our area – she had the first conversations with local farmers about how they could benefit by having child care programs as one of their markets. She supported our farmer liaison in knowing who the **farmers in our community** are getting her connected to them.

Lynn Policastro, the Technical Assistance Provider from Wake County Smart Start had the **connections to child care facilities** in the area, and identified which centers would be interested and ready for local produce supplied by the farmers.



Farm to ECE Work Group

Local Foods Program Team

# Partnering for Program Development

trainings provided to child care center staff

Cooperative Extension summer interns created a database of **recipes that use fresh local produce items** for ECE center directors and cooks. Interns also used these recipe ideas to provide cooking and taste testing activities in ECE classrooms throughout the county.

Wake County Cooperative Extension interns and staff have provided **Knife Skills Classes to cooks and staff** who are using fresh produce in their centers for the first time. The Cooperative Extension Cooking Lab hosted this one session class that focuses on the basics of using knives and basic chopping methods. Each participant practices on fresh produce items, items are then used to prepare several dishes that the group tastes.

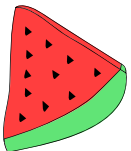


## Work Group Co-Chairs

Der Holcomb, FCS, Alexander County  
Caroline Stover, Farm to ECE Initiative, CEFS

## Work Group Members

Zandra Alford, Shironda Brown,  
Ivelisse Colon, Liz Driscoll,  
Christy Strickland, Deborah McGiffin,  
Courtney Tevepaugh, Marcus MacFarland,  
Allison Walker, Hayley Cowell,  
Tes Thraves, Lucy Bradley, Dara Bloom



## FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION WORK GROUP

The Farm to ECE Work Group plans to gather case studies like this one, describing Cooperative Extension partnerships with the early care and education community - technical assistance providers, center cooks, directors, and teachers. We hope to use these examples to inform an extension program that can be used across program areas for agents to increase local food consumption and experiences for 0-5 year olds and their ECE providers. We are a brand new work group this year and are excited to keep this momentum going!