



THE PLAYHOUSE PLAY KIT PROJECT

Goals

- Mitigate trauma caused by the Pandemic
- Stay connected to families in the community
- Design open-ended, engrossing activities that support development
- Provide an accurate and reassuring child development message
- Support parents

Activities and Preliminary Numbers from May 2020 to March 2021

- **7 Play Kits for ages 2-6:** Playhouse Care Package, Everybody Let's Go Outside, Water and Wondering, Pizza and More, Autumn Kit, Amazing Animals, and Snowy Days.
- **6 STEAM Kits for ages 6 and up:** Town Engineer, Artistic Chemist, Art in Motion, Let's Explore Light, & Geology Rocks.
- **1 Infant/Toddler Kit** for ages 9 to 24 months.
- **Each kit contains 6 to 12 activities** and enough supplies for at least **2 children**.

- **1650 total kits** assembled, **1528 distributed** as of March 19.
- **87% Watauga residents:** 98% of agency recipients and 80% of Playhouse porch recipients were Watauga residents.

- **65% were distributed free of charge to families in financial distress** via The Playhouse porch and area agencies (see list).

- **35% of families made "pay what you can" donations** ranging from \$10-\$25 to cover the cost of materials.

- **54% of families requesting via The Playhouse** reported at least one of the following: **Medicaid/EBT**, significantly **reduced income** due to the pandemic, or **food insecurity**.

- **Spanish activity guides** were promoted through local aid groups and the schools.



***"We love this... I'm beyond grateful for these. I'm a single mom to a toddler and a special needs teenager. There is stuff for both of them (supervised of course) and stuff we can do as a family."** —parent*





Collaborating Agencies

F.A.R.M. Café provided ingredients and recipes for five of the kits. Play Kits were distributed free of charge to the following agencies:

Agencies	Total as of 3/19/21
Hunger & Health Coalition	155
Watauga County EC Preschool Early Intervention	95
Children's Council Outreach	72
High Country Caregivers (relative foster care)	39
Immigrant Justice Coalition	27
BUMC Summer Literacy Program	24
Watauga County Public Library	20
Western TLC Head Start	19
Western Youth Network	15
Cove Creek Pre-K	12
Two Rivers Community School	12
Blowing Rock Pre-K	11
BUMC Thursday Night Meal	10
Hardin Park Elementary school social worker	10
Harmony Center for Women	10
DUAL School (bilingual preschool)	9
Department of Social Services	7
OASIS (domestic violence shelter)	7
Other early interventionists	5

Support for The Play Kit Project

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THE CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE
400 Tracy Circle, Boone, NC * goplayhouse.org