

Our mission is to deliver educational and cultural programs to children, families, and communities, primarily in Southern Appalachia. We serve by sharing and spreading centuries-old traditions of song and story.

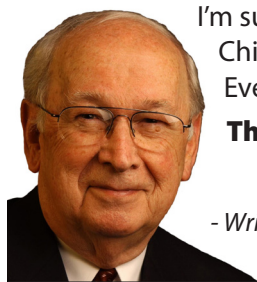
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MILK & HONEY NEWSLETTER

A Taste of Milk & Honey

YES, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY that our Children's Enrichment Program adds luxury to the otherwise rather sparse lives of many of the children we serve. This is not to say that we regard as of less value the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter, needs that occupy parents of the children. Of course not. We watch and listen and often stretch our funds to help address those needs. But the point is, we do not regard all luxuries as luxuries. A story, a song, a book, a toy, a funny hat, a silly game: these, too, are necessities, not luxuries. It is not the case that bread on the table is the only necessity; so is the candle, the violin, the colorful napkin, and the laughter of those who love the child. These, too, are essential because the children are human beings, created in God's image, with hearts, minds, feelings, and imagination.

Once Jesus and his friends were guests at a dinner party at which a woman anointed Jesus with an expensive ointment. Some of Jesus' friends objected, calling her act "wasteful." Jesus heard their complaining and responded sharply, "Leave her alone; she has done a beautiful thing for me."



I'm sure you already know, but let me again assure all you who give to the Children's Enrichment Program: Not one penny of your gift is wasted. Every penny goes towards those things every child really needs.

Thank you for your generosity.

- Written by Dr. Fred Craddock, July 2009

SPRING CAMPAIGN 2023

Because of your support and generosity, The Craddock Center has been able to make a difference in the lives of the 1,100 children we support each year in the Pre-K and Head Start programs in southern Appalachia. During the last 22 years, The Craddock Center has served 27,000 children, given away over 100,000 new children's books, and provided 11,000 hours of programming. Your passion for these children and for the work of The Craddock Center is making a difference!

This year our Annual Campaign celebrates the resiliency of The Craddock Center and its donors, supporters, volunteers, and staff. We successfully navigated the challenges presented by the pandemic and are now well positioned for the future. **The Campaign will come to a close on April 30th, the birthday of Dr. Craddock.**

How can you help us?

Continue your support of the work of The Craddock Center by making a gift.

Your gift will: put books into the hands of the little ones that so need them, enable us to continue our programming into the pre-K and Head Start classrooms every week, support the work of the Living Room program to provide household furnishings to those in need, and provide Craddock Cares kits to first responders to help those in crisis.

Thank you again for your continued generosity and enabling The Craddock Center to make a difference for the children, families, and communities in southern Appalachia.

From the Executive Director

When I started as Executive Director of The Craddock Center on November 2, 2020 I had a number of goals on my list. **First and foremost, get us through the pandemic** and continue connections with the children as much as we could. The Craddock Center never closed. We had to curtail our in-person programming but thanks to our volunteers and supporters the children still received their brand-new books, knitted caps, wooden toys, and virtual Santa visits.

Some of my other goals: Improve the long-term financial stability of The Craddock Center – DONE! Take the Children's Enrichment Program into the classrooms every week – DONE! Charter a Cub Scout Pack – DONE! Have recovery groups utilize our Meeting Building as a place to gather – DONE! Improve awareness of the work of The Craddock Center in our communities – DONE! Create and implement a maintenance program to protect our physical property assets – DONE!

But there was one goal that was second on my list: **Help parents become the best teachers they can be!**

Through our Children's Enrichment Program, we spend 25 minutes each week with 1,130 three and four-year old children in Pre-K and Head Start. What if The Craddock Center had the opportunity to impact these children from age 0 to 5? What if The Craddock Center could provide parents the tools they need to fully develop the learning skills of their children from birth to age 5?

The Craddock Center is excited to announce its newest program...SMART BABIES!

You will hear much more about this program in the months to come. Please look for another article from one of our Board Members, Bev Cook, who is helping to spearhead this exciting new opportunity for The Craddock Center and the children and families in our communities.



"Parents are teachers, and home is a child's first and most important classroom."

- Hillary Clinton

INTRODUCING OUR
NEWEST PROGRAM!

SMART BABIES!

DID YOU KNOW? *

40%

40% of children walk into kindergarten already one to three years behind.

71%

71% of children who start kindergarten behind are still behind in the 5th grade.

2%

Students who start Kindergarten below grade level have less than a 2% chance of attending post high school education.

We at The Craddock Center were shocked by these statistics. We knew we could not ignore this. So, we got busy.

FIRST

We researched the two closest counties to The Craddock Center, Fannin, and Gilmer, to see if any organization was addressing this issue. The answer was no.

SECOND

We researched what was going on in our state. Fortunately, awareness in this area appears to be growing but no definitive plans are in place.

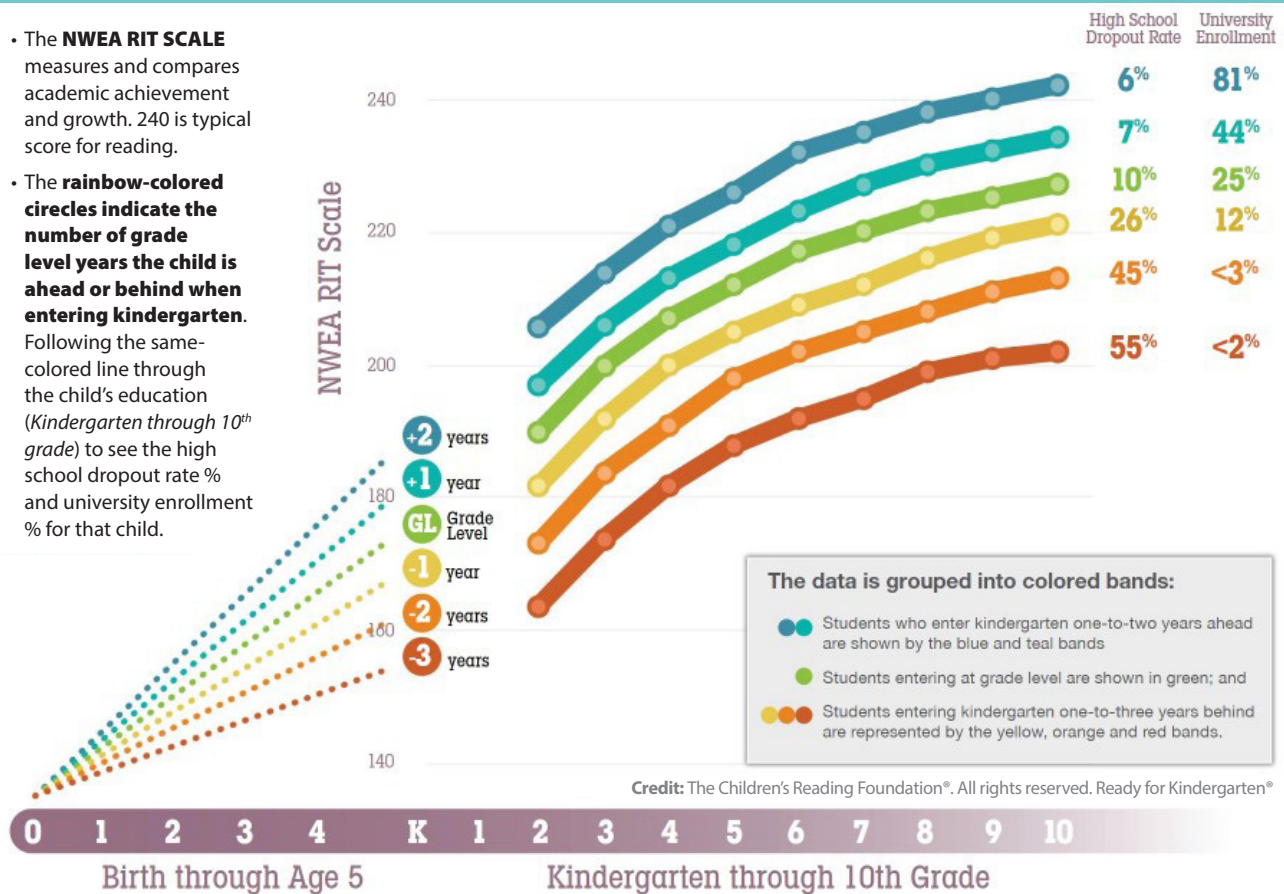
THIRD

We researched effective programs being utilized in the nation.

Our research showed that the parent was the child's first teacher. But we also found that some parents do not have the knowledge or tools to fully help develop their child's mind. Since learning in the first five years is at a speed unmatched by any other time in life, the knowledge and tools must be provided to these parents. The Craddock Center hopes to do exactly that.

We are in the process of developing parenting workshops through a program that will be called **'Smart Babies'**. Stay tuned in our next newsletter to hear about the curriculum we have chosen and more about the workshops.

The First Five Years Impacts Success in School and Life



We Need Your Help!

As a non-profit, everything we do is a result of monetary donations or donations of goods from our wonderful supporters. We need Golden Classic books and lots of supplies for our Summer Send Off program in May 2023.

Each of our 1,130 children will receive a bag of goodies as their pre-K and Head Start programs end for the Summer. The goal of this program is to provide our children an opportunity to continue learning even as their formal learning programs suspend for the Summer. The Summer reading achievement gap can be closed by a child reading 4-5 books during the Summer.

Please use the Amazon Wish List (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/33CGISEAZLV36?ref=wl_share) to help us secure what is needed for our 1,130 children. **Thank you in advance for your generosity!**

Recruiting Board Members

Are you looking for a rewarding experience?

A new opportunity to give back to your community?

Do you have a passion for children and literacy?

The Craddock Center is looking for motivated individuals to serve on its Board of Directors.

Most of us reach a point in our lives where we need a new challenge. What better way to introduce a new challenge than to inspire change by serving on a nonprofit Board such as with The Craddock Center. As a Board Member, you will witness first-hand the social impact of our programs for the children and families in our community while offering advice, oversight, and support.

Nonprofits, such as The Craddock Center, lead by fulfilling our mission and work to make an impact on the children and families of southern Appalachia. We are looking for members of our community who want to lead with us and bring your skills and expertise to make a difference in our community!

If you have an interest, please contact Kirk Cameron at 706-632-1772 for more information.



PINEWOOD DERBY at The Craddock Center



Our Cub Scout Pack 440, hosted their second Pinewood Derby, a fun, family event, at The Craddock Center on Saturday, February 18th. This year we used our own track that was purchased with proceeds from a fundraiser and a 50/50 match from The Craddock Center. The pack was very excited to run their first race event on our own computerized track!

First Place went to Odin Joyner, Second Place to JJ Stover, and Third Place to Carter Parkhurst. Congratulations to all the Scouts who participated and their parents who helped them.

The Pinewood Derby is a Cub Scout car race where 7-inch toy cars, made by the kids and parents, weighing no more than five ounces, are raced down a sloped track. The concept originated with Don Murphy in 1953. Murphy noted, "I wanted to devise a wholesome, constructive activity that would foster a closer father-son relationship and promote craftsmanship and good sportsmanship through competition."

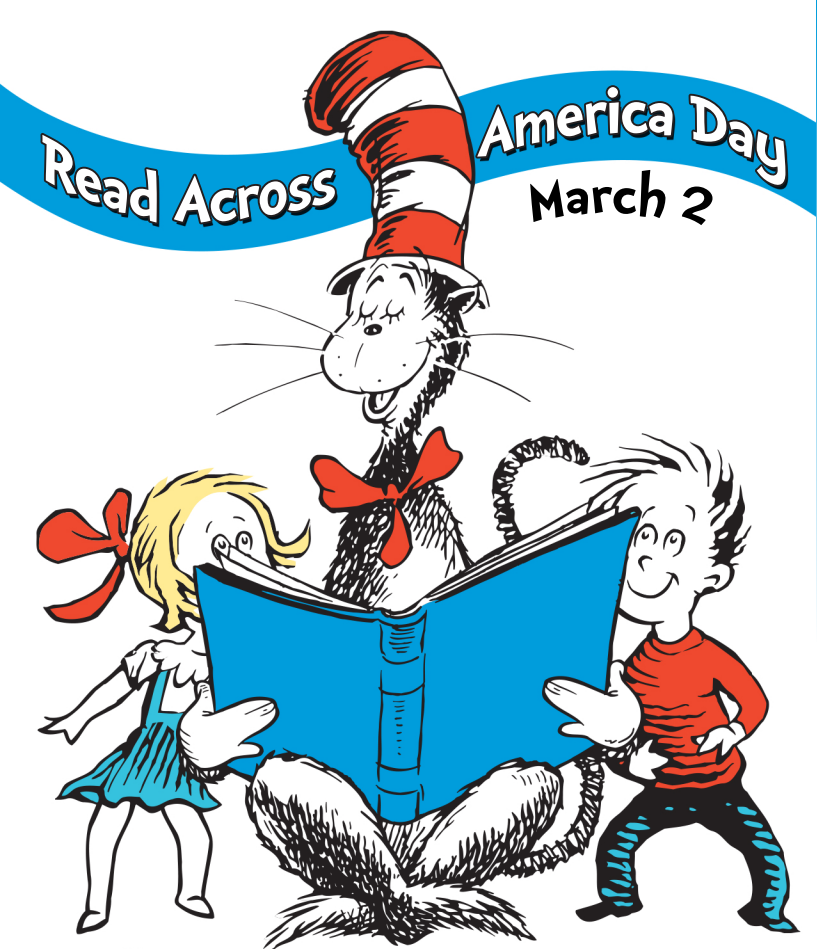


DONATE NOW

You can support
The Craddock Center
NOW! Just hover over the
code (below) with your phone
camera and then select the
"Craddock Center" prompt.

**Thank You for
your generosity!**





DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY

On March 2nd, The Craddock Center celebrated Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss's Birthday. On this day volunteers from The Craddock Center delivered 1,130 brand new Dr. Seuss books and Dr. Seuss bookmarks to the children we serve.

Read Across America Day is a day to celebrate the joys of reading. It also brings awareness to the importance of reading in education for our children. The founders of this day decided to have it on Dr. Seuss's birthday. Dr. Seuss is one of the greatest authors of children's books. Most kids have grown up reading his many wacky, rhyming, and wonderfully entertaining books. The Craddock Center is making sure our kids can share in the joy of his books like many of us have over the years.

Kudos, appreciation, and recognition to Amicalola EMC Operation Roundup for their financial support of this year's program! We also thank our supporters who sent in monetary donations and hundreds of Dr. Seuss books for the children!

Thanks to our volunteers Marcia Lehman, Judy Weiland, and Lynn Higginbotham for packing the books and bookmarks for delivery.

And, thanks to Beth Roberts, Debbie Martin, Larry Brannon and Carolyn Lakes, and Pam Hurd for delivering the books!



What we heard from the teachers from the **Read Across America Day Celebration**

*"Thank you so much for the books and
bookmarks. The kiddoes love them!"*

Christina Canada-Clark,
Pickens County Head Start



"Thank you for all you do!"

Mary Beth Moss, Union County Head Start



*"Our Pre-K children sure loved
receiving their books and bookmarks!
Thank you for you do for our program!"*

Holly Cook, Union County
Elementary School Pre-K



*"Thank you for
thinking of our children!"*

Brian Hoyt, Murphy Elementary School Pre-K



*"Thank you so much! We are
so excited about the books!"*

Katrina Kingsley, Gilmer County
Elementary School Pre-K



Thank You Anonymous!



During the year we receive many monetary donations, books, and hats from many anonymous donors. **Thank you for your generous gifts!** We wish we knew who you are so that we could thank you. Please know that your anonymous gifts are valued and appreciated, and they help us bring joy to the many children that we serve. Thank you!



Friends of The Craddock Center

The Craddock Center cannot do what we do for the children and families of Southern Appalachia without the financial support of our donors. **Thank you and recognition to those individuals, organizations, and foundations for their generosity in supporting The Craddock Center from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.**

\$15,000+ William B. Orkin Foundation, Inc.

\$10,000+

Warren and Augusta
Hume Foundation
Eugene and Karen Boring

Gary and Nancy Fayard
Frances Wood Wilson Foundation, Inc.
Helen M. Lewis

\$5,000+

Elizabeth Roberts King Endowment
Mrs. Nettie Craddock
Reba C. Gibson
Evelyn Mitchell

Peachtree Corners Christian Church
Paige V. Peugh
Piedmont Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The George Link Jr. Charitable Trust

\$4,000+

Friendship
Christian Church

\$3,000+

John and Dee Craddock
Susan Elliott-Bryan
Faith, Hope, and Charity
Recycle Store, Inc.

Nora Roberts Foundation
The Hammill Family
Foundation
Church of the Good
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Earline Crooke
Network for Good

Ray and Muriel Larson Gift Fund
Jerry and Faye Hardiman
Linda Kliros
Marcia Lehman

\$1,000+

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Southstate Bank
Ginger Walker

New Hope Christian Church
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Rebecca Bunton

Up to \$500

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