



Happy & Hope. We Deliver.

THE CRADDOCK CENTER
MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to deliver educational and cultural programs to children, families, and communities, primarily in Southern Appalachia.

MILK & HONEY



How Would You Describe The Craddock Center?

We deliver songs, stories, and books to children living in southern Appalachia. Active, hands-on and highly engaging are words to describe our service to over 1200 children. Our focus is on developing school readiness, building self-esteem and fostering creativity through music, movement, puppetry, and storytelling.

Storytelling



Storytelling is a creative form of expression where imagination is translated into words. It requires interactive words and actions with variations in tone, to narrate a story that keeps the listeners hooked until the end. A good storyteller also encourages the listener's active imagination, letting them become the co-creators of the tale. Storytelling can take various forms such as dance, puppetry, musicals, comedy, poetry, and more.



The Craddock Center

Music



Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness. This includes intellectual, social-emotional learning, motor, language, and overall literacy. It helps the body and the mind work together. Dancing to music helps children build and fine-tune motor skills and allows them to practice self-expression.



New Books for
Every Child



The Story Express carries hundreds of new children's books three times a year to each of the 64 classrooms we visit. The Story Express arrives at school and staff and volunteers unload books for the children to select. Each child chooses one to keep as their own.

In addition to serving classrooms, the Story Express visits health fairs, community events, and school/district Literacy Nights. During Camp Craddock, we arrive on site and gives out books to ALL school-age kids.



DR. FRED B. CRADDOCK

A Taste of Milk & Honey

O, FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES and then I could express the gratitude of 1,000 children who say to you, “thank you.” It is important, whether you gave little or much, that you know you have blessed children you probably will never meet. I want you to know that last August most of these children came into Head Start classrooms afraid, silent, or crying, hiding behind Mother. This month they ran out of those rooms laughing and singing. Thanks to you, they have songs to sing all summer, stories to tell all summer, and books to take to their parents with a new request: *“Read me a story.”*

Not all the beautiful changes in the children are due to our program; of course not. Most, but not all, come from homes that are poor in things but rich in love. The Head Start schools have good teachers who care for the children. But the Head Start programs are strapped for funds and word out of Washington brings the tragic news of further cuts. Budgets are trim, with no funds for programs of enrichment—music, art, storytelling, and dance. And so, through The Craddock Center, you come into their classrooms singing, dancing, telling stories. You have enriched their lives, and if the statistics are to be believed, you have improved their chances for success in school and in life. So, thank you...

It has been my pleasure to visit some of the schools. To be sure, with some children there is evidence of physical and emotional abuse, and it breaks your heart. But the overwhelming experience is one of delight. You look at each new face and say, *“This is a child of God. I see a striking resemblance.”*

(Special Note: Written by Dr. Craddock in May 2005 explaining why we do what we do at The Craddock Center and expressing Thank You to our friends. His thoughts remain true today! ~ Pam)

The Craddock Center’s Mission

The mission of The Craddock Center is to deliver educational and cultural programs to young children, families, and individual communities in southern Appalachia. These ARE the folks who make up the very fabric of our area.

Have you wondered why our focus is on the very youngest children? Brain research tells us that 85% of our brain development occurs before the age of 5. So, our primary focus is on preschool-aged children before the age of 5 years old. Our founder, Dr. Fred Craddock, often spoke on the importance of providing these very young ones with enriching activities to encourage creativity and provide experiences with the arts.

Additionally, in our program, we often serve children living in poverty who lack self-worth and live in significant isolation. We focus our attention on developing school readiness, building self-esteem and fostering creativity through music, movement, puppetry, and storytelling. As a result of Dr. Craddock’s passion, The Craddock Center’s emphasis becomes the foundation for these children to achieve their full potential in all areas of their lives. Our program is literally an outreach where our artists and volunteers go on-site to bring messages of hope and happiness through joy-filled experiences.

“Happy & Hope. We Deliver” comes alive each day !



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