



Newsletter

December 2013

STAR Update

4 year STAR visits are underway. Thank you to all the STAR parents who have made the project a success in the last year and continue to dedicate their time to its success this year. We could not do it without you!



Adverse Weather

Since winter is upon us there may be a chance for severe weather. We will run visits as long as the University is open. You can check UNCG's website www.uncg.edu or call 336-334-4400 for the university's status of operation. Please use your judgment during severe weather, if you feel uncomfortable traveling please call our office and reschedule your visit.

Meet the Staff



Megan Chandler is the Project Manager for the STAR Project. She graduated with her M.S. in Child Development and Family Relations from East Carolina University in December 2009, and has a B.S. in Family and Community Services. In her free time she enjoys traveling, photography, and spending time with family and friends; especially her one year old daughter.



Investigator Spotlight

Dr. Esther Leerkes



Dr. Esther Leerkes is the Primary Investigator on the STAR Project. She teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses addressing research in child development and parent-child relations. In her research, Dr. Leerkes focuses on social and emotional development within the family system. Dr. Leerkes has 3 children, loves spending time with her family, hiking, and fixing up her house with her husband.

Recently, Dr. Leerkes accepted an invitation from the National Institutes of Health's Center for Scientific Review to be a member of a grant review panel focused on Psychosocial Development, Risk and Prevention through June 2019. This committee makes recommendations about what research projects should be funded.

In addition to her work with the STAR Project, Dr. Leerkes is involved with other research projects. She is also the primary investigator for the Triad Child Study which looks at how moms respond when their infants cry and how that relates to children's ability to control their emotions.

Next Issue: Dr. Susan Calkins

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Starting Kindergarten



1. Starting Kindergarten is an exciting time! The first step is enrolling your child in school. This typically happens in the Spring. Contact your County's' School System to learn which school your child will be assigned and what is needed to get them registered for next year.
2. Many school systems also require that you fill out an additional form if your child will ride the bus. Be sure to ask about this when you enroll your child.
3. If you are looking for before/after school care, most schools offer a low cost program. These programs require you to fill out a separate application at the time you register your child.



Guilford County: ww.gcsnc.com/370-8303
Forsyth County: wsfcs.k12.nc.us/748-3302
Davidson County: davidson.k12.nc.us/249-8182

Pumpkin Pie Scented Playdough

Ingredients:

- 1 Cup flour
- 1/3 cup salt
- 1 ½ tsp cloves
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- 1 TBSP Cream of Tartar
- 1 TBSP vegetable or canola oil
- 4-5 drops each of yellow and red food dye
- 1 cup water



Directions:

Mix ingredients and cook on the stove on medium heat until the playdough becomes firm. Allow to cool, and have fun!

Keep in touch!

Please contact Erica with address or phone number changes. You can reach her by e-mail star@uncg.edu or by phone 336-256-0540. We are typically available Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and want to be as helpful as possible to all of you. If you have moved out of the Greensboro area contact us for ways you can still participate in the project.

Also find us at:
<http://starproject.uncg.edu>



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