



## What is Farm to Child Care?

Simply put, Farm to Child Care (F2CC) is bringing North Carolina grown fruits and vegetables into child care facilities for meals and snacks.

Farm to Child Care is an extension of the Farm to School/ Farm to Preschool efforts across the United States. Farm to Preschool is about connecting young children with local foods.

This includes any type of child care that incorporates local foods through:

- meals and snacks
- taste tests
- lessons and activities
- farmer visits
- cooking
- growing food
- community/parent engagement.

## Across the Nation and in Wake County

Farm to Preschool began emerging in limited ways since 2007 and has developed further today with programs now in cities in California, Massachusetts, Hawaii, New York and in western North Carolina.

In **Wake County**, Farm to Child Care explorations began with a small pilot in July-August 2013, funded by a John Rex Endowment planning and assessment grant. The grant was designed to learn about the barriers and opportunities for child care facilities in Wake County to purchase and serve locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Advocates for Health in Action (AHA) led that grant with partners Wake County SmartStart (WCSS) and Wake County Cooperative Extension and several excellent pioneering child care centers in Wake who helped the learning process.

In August 2014, the John Rex Endowment awarded WCSS a three-year grant to work in partnership with AHA and Cooperative Extension to expand Farm to Child Care widely in Wake County, specifically among child care facilities serving low-income children.

