



Lights On Afterschool! Day

Lights On Afterschool! Day is celebrated nationwide on October 14, 2004. On this date, quality afterschool programs will be given the opportunity to highlight the value of these programs and the significant and important role they play in the child development process. Over 6,000 afterschool programs, including school-age child care facilities and afterschool programs, will participate again this year. Governor Mike Easley has issued a [proclamation](#) to indicate that North Carolina is also joining this national celebration.

Celebrated since 2000, Lights On Afterschool! is a project of the Afterschool Alliance. The Afterschool Alliance, which is based in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to afterschool programs by the Year 2010. Here in North Carolina, Governor Easley created the [North Carolina Center for After School Programs](#) (NC CAP) to help make access to quality after school programs and care a reality for all children.

Research studies tell us that afterschool programs not only keep children safer and assist in providing care for children so parents can work, but they also serve to help improve academic development and build character in children. Although studies indicate that these programs are beneficial for children, families and society, the lack of available afterschool programs is a major issue that many parents often face. According to a Cost and Benefits Study on afterschool programs, every dollar invested in afterschool programs will save taxpayers approximately \$3.00.

For More Information on Lights On Afterschool!, [click here](#).