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PRESS RELEASE

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IBM donates six "Young Explorer" computers to local high-quality child care centers in Durham

Durham, NC – Durham's Partnership for Children has received a grant from IBM that will benefit six 4 and 5-star early learning facilities in Durham County.

IBM is partnering with Durham's Partnership for Children in providing IBM's KidSmart program which includes the Young Explorer™, a computer housed in brightly-colored, kid-friendly Little Tikes™ furniture and equipped with award-winning educational software to help children learn and explore concepts in math, science and language. The computer centers can also help children learn important socialization skills such as how to work together and share.

The child care centers that are receiving the Young Explorer computers are:

- Bryson Christian Montessori School
- Early Explorers Playschool #1
- Great Horizons Preschool
- Little People Day Care Center
- Operation Breakthrough Head Start – Lyon Park
- Triangle Day Care Center

The Young Explorer computers are specially designed with oversized bright screens that are easy for more than one student to see. The exterior is sturdy enough to allow lots of little fingers to punch the keys for tactile learning. Big and colorful, the computers naturally attract curious preschoolers to investigate. Even more, the award-winning education software is designed for young children to develop the cognitive and social skills they'll need to succeed in school. The KidSmart unit is part of IBM's global early learning technology initiative to support the early childhood education of children internationally (<http://www.kidsmartearlylearning.org/>).

For the last 15 years, Durham's Partnership for Children has been committed to improving the early education environment in Durham County so that young children will enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Corporate partnerships, like those with IBM, are a key part of that strategy.

"IBM is committed to breaking down the digital divide and helping all children to have access to technology," said Tina Wilson, Manager of Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs. "Through our partnership with Durham's Partnership for Children we can help young children at an early age begin to develop computer skills they will need to succeed in school."

"IBM has been a wonderful partner and a model of corporate leadership in Durham County; we applaud them for their generosity and commitment to young children," said Marsha Basloe, Executive Director of Durham's Partnership for Children.

The Partnership continues to look for opportunities to engage the corporate community in support of early childhood. Our strategy is to demonstrate how an investment in young children has a direct impact on our local workforce and the safety and prosperity of the entire county. IBM's continued support is a testament to that strategy and an important step toward creating healthy and successful students.

About Durham's Partnership for Children

Durham's Partnership for Children celebrates 15 years making young children a priority. Founded in 1994 and first funded in 1995 to administer the Smart Start grant in Durham County, the Partnership works as an independent, local nonprofit that serves young children birth to age 5 and their families under North Carolina's nationally recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. For 15 year, the Partnership has helped working parents pay for child care, improve the quality of child care and provided health and family support services to thousands of Durham County families with young children. The Partnership works to achieve its mission: *To mobilize and unify the Durham community to create and support innovative and successful approaches to serving the needs of children birth to age 5 and their families*, by working with funded partners and mobilizing groups and organizations in Durham County to support and coordinate efforts impacting young children and their families. The Partnership also administers the More at Four Program in Durham County serving more than 400 children. For more information about Durham's Partnership for Children, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext 221.

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