



PRESS RELEASE

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NEARLY 100 DURHAM PRESCHOOL TEACHERS CONVENE FOR TRAINING CONFERENCE

*Training focuses on uniting together for early care and education to offer best to children in
More at Four programs*

Durham, NC – **Durham's Partnership for Children**, a Smart Start Initiative is hosting a two-day training conference, "2009 More at Four Pre-Service Luau" at Grey Stone Baptist Church.

This training for Durham's pre-k programs will cover program guidelines, classroom management, nutrition, family support, and fun with literacy, math and science for approximately 100 early childhood educators who will be serving nearly 400 children through the More at Four program in Durham County.

"Professional development for preschool teachers is very important as 90 percent of a child's brain growth develops by preschool. These teachers are tasked with teaching children at the most critical time in their development. These trainings will support their efforts to ensure more of our county's children arrive to kindergarten ready to succeed," said Marsha Basloe, executive director of Durham's Partnership for Children.

The training also provides an overview of the Dial-3 test administration—a tool for screening preschool and kindergarten children in a supportive environment. Uniting together is the overall emphasis of the training as these teachers work with young children, many whom have never been in a formal child care setting and may be at-risk for school failure due to economic and language barriers.

For more information on the two-day training or the More at Four Pre-K Program, contact Karine Stallings at 403-6960 ext. 221.

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 nearly 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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