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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2015

Durham's Partnership for Children hosts Early Childhood Bus Tour
Nonprofit invites community members to view Durham through the lens of early
childhood on May 20, 2015

Durham, NC – Durham's Partnership for Children (the Partnership), a *Smart Start Initiative*, invites community members to attend an Early Childhood Bus Tour on Wednesday, May 20th from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. This event illustrates the impact of high quality care, programs and services that promote healthy development and learning for Durham County's youngest children and families. The free tour is one of several offered throughout the year and is part of an ongoing effort to facilitate discussion among community leaders.

The Early Childhood Bus Tour will begin at the Partnership's office with a volunteer activity to benefit young children. The tour will then leave for Healthy Families Durham, a program of the Center for Child & Family Health that is funded through the Partnership by Smart Start. Visitors will tour their brand new facility and learn about importance of early intervention and home visiting for high-risk families with young children.

The next stop on the tour is Bryson Christian Montessori School, one of three Durham Early Head Start child care centers and the site of a state-of-the-art outdoor learning environment. The Partnership also administers the state-funded NC Pre-K program at the school, offering high-quality early education to 4-year-olds in Durham who will benefit most from services.

The tour will conclude with a visit to Forest View Elementary, where guests will learn about the Partnership's Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) Initiative, a collaboration with Durham Public Schools. Forest View is home to a TTK Transition Team that hosts several events each year for rising kindergartners and their families, giving them an opportunity to meet future classmates, tour the school, interact with kindergarten teachers, and participate in parent-child activities.

Throughout the tour, the Partnership will showcase community strategies and best practices for young children and families in Durham, all while painting the big picture of ensuring that every child in Durham enters school healthy and ready to succeed.

Those interested should RSVP at www.dpfc.net or by calling (919) 403-6960.

- WHAT:** Durham's Partnership for Children
Early Childhood Bus Tour
- WHERE:** Jim and Carolyn Hunt Child Care Resource Center
1201 S. Briggs Avenue, Durham, NC 27703
(beginning of tour only)
- WHEN:** May 20th, 2015
8:30 am - 11:30 am

About Durham's Partnership for Children - 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 to ensure that all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. For 20 years, the Partnership has helped parents pay for child care, improved the quality of child care and provided health and family support services to thousands of Durham County families with young children. The Partnership leverages the public and private sectors to achieve its mission: *To ensure every child in Durham enters school ready to succeed, we lead community strategies for children birth to 5 and their families that promote healthy development and learning and enhance access to high quality care.* The Partnership administers Smart Start, NC Pre-K, and Early Head Start in Durham County. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext. 221.

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