



NEWS RELEASE

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Military Leaders Visit Raleigh to Ask Legislators to Maintain Funding For Early Childhood Programs

Durham, NC – On **Wednesday, May 25, 2011** representatives from military families from across the state and representatives from Durham's Partnership for Children, a *Smart Start initiative*, will travel to the **N.C. General Assembly** to participate in **Military Advocacy Day**. Constituents will meet with legislators to discuss the challenges facing young children and ask legislators to maintain investments in early childhood programs. The security of our nation depends on its ability to support our children's healthy development and growth and ensure they are able to serve in the military.

WHAT: **Military Advocacy Day.** Seventy-five percent of all young adults ages 17-24 in America are unable to join the military because they lack a high school diploma, are in poor physical health, or have a criminal record. Representatives from Durham's Partnership for Children, a *Smart Start initiative*, and from military families will be meeting one-on-one with legislators to discuss challenges facing young children from military families and help policymakers understand the importance of investing early.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 25, 2011
10:00 am

WHERE: N.C. General Assembly
300 N Salisbury St
Raleigh, NC 27603

WHO: Durham County military families and veterans from across the state
Representatives from Durham's Partnership for Children

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 under North Carolina's nationally recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. For more than 15 years, 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, 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 Pre-Kindergarten Program in Durham County serving more than 400 children and the new Early Head Start Grant serving Durham infants and toddlers. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext. 219.