

## **Sessions to focus on preventing abuse, neglect**

DURHAM – Recent statistics from Action for Children North Carolina show there were more than 124,000 reports of child abuse and neglect in North Carolina last year, with nearly 2,800 of those reported in Durham County.

As a component of Durham's Early Childhood Faith Initiative, Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative, invites faith educators, volunteers and parents who work with young children in faith-based environments to attend its fall Lunch & Learn Series, which is structured around child abuse prevention. Two free trainings are scheduled for Tuesday and Oct. 11, 11:30 a.m.-1 pm at the Soul Café at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church, 504 W. Chapel Hill St.

Durham's Early Childhood Faith Initiative is a collaboration between Durham's Partnership for Children and End Poverty Durham. The fall Lunch & Learn Series follows a series of learning sessions held in spring of 2011 that allowed faith educators and children/family ministers to gain a greater awareness of ways to reach out to the underserved birth-5 population.

Tuesday's session, titled "Child Abuse and Congregations," will be led by Ted Whiteside of the partnership and will focus on defining children abuse; the importance of putting policies and systems in place to prevent child abuse in faith environments; and adult responsibility to report suspected abuse.

The Oct. 11 session, titled "How Child Abuse and Trauma Impacts Early Development," will be led by Tripp Ake of the Center for Children and Family Health and will focus on the impact of abuse and neglect on the brain development of young children.

To register, contact Winnie Morgan at 732-1524 or [winniewmorgan@juno.com](mailto:winniewmorgan@juno.com).

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