



MEDIA RELEASE

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Durham County group to visit General Assembly to tell legislators this short session to hold the line on cuts to young children and their families

Durham's Early Childhood System Joins Smart Start's Tuesdays for Tots Advocacy Day

Durham - On **Tuesday, May 18** child advocates, child care professionals, parents and business leaders from Durham County will travel to the **N.C. General Assembly** to participate in Smart Start's Tuesdays for Tots Advocacy Day. Nearly 50 constituents will join several partnerships across the state to meet with their local legislative delegation to discuss the **challenges facing young children** and working families.

The Durham group will ask that legislators:

- 1) Hold the line and not cut vital services to young children.
- 2) Support the Governor's proposed funding for Smart Start and More at Four.
- 3) Use the efficiencies presented by early childhood leaders and supported by the NC Child Care Coalition to maintain funding for early childhood.
- 4) Provide funding for basic needs.
- 5) Provide child care subsidy funding.

WHAT: **Durham's Partnership for Children's Tuesdays for Tots.** Tuesdays for Tots is Smart Start's signature advocacy effort that takes place every year during the legislative session. On Tuesdays, Smart Start partnerships come to Raleigh for one-on-one meetings with legislators to educate them on Smart Start successes and discuss challenges facing young children and their families.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 9:15 a.m. to noon

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

WHO: Durham's Partnership for Children and nearly 50 Durham residents, parents, business people, professionals working with education, health and human service programs that serve young children, early childhood educators and child care site directors/owners will be visiting the Durham County delegation.

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 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 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 and the new Early Head Start Grant which will serve 120 Durham infants and toddlers beginning in the Spring of 2010. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext 221.
