



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY + PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
*Durham Partnership for Children Holds Family
Involvement Institute for More at Four*

Durham, NC – On Saturday, March 18, 2006, Durham Partnership for Children will host the Family Involvement Institute for nearly 50 More at Four directors and teachers at the Durham Hilton at 3800 Hillsborough Road in Durham.

More at Four, Governor Easley's statewide Pre-K program for at-risk kids, aims to prepare children for success in school by implementing high quality education programs for at-risk four year olds. Durham currently boasts 21 More at Four sites at private child care facilities and in the Durham Public Schools. Since family involvement is such a critical factor in a child's academic success, the Partnership coordinated this Institute to help educate More at Four staff in the principles and practices of family involvement. The goal of the Institute is to give directors and teachers strategies for engaging families in their child's education. Experts from Durham's early childhood community will address the principles of family involvement before assisting individual sites with unique family involvement plans.

The Institute will focus on the following three topics with guest speakers:

Principles of Family Involvement and Culture Diversity

Kate Thegan, Red Broom Consultants

Linda Hicks, More at Four Coordinator, Durham's Partnership for Children

Creating and Implementing a Family Involvement Plan

Mary Ashe, Coordinator for Early Reading First Grant - Project Enlightenment, Wake County Public Schools

Deborah Leigh Gooch, Teacher/Parent Consultant - Project Enlightenment, Wake County Public Schools

WHAT: Family Involvement Institute

DATE: Saturday, March 18, 2006

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHO: Staff and consultants listed above

WHERE: Durham Hilton, 3800 Hillsborough Rd, Durham, NC 27705

Please note: This Institute will provide a great photo opportunity of the More at Four directors and teachers from across Durham County who are making a major impact on the future of Durham.

For more information about the School Readiness More at Four Retreat, please contact Linda Hicks, More at Four Coordinator at 919-403-6960 ext. 225 or linda@dpfc.net.

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About Durham's Partnership for Children

Durham's Partnership for Children was founded in 1994 and first funded in 1995 to administer the Smart Start grant in Durham County. Smart Start is North Carolina's nationally recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Smart Start helps working parents pay for childcare, improves the quality of childcare and provides health and family support services in every North Carolina County. The Partnership works with funded partners (affiliated organizations) 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 0-5 and their families." Durham's Partnership for Children also administers the Governor's More at Four Program in Durham County.

For more information about Durham's Partnership for Children, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960.