



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Durham's Partnership for Children Hosts "School Readiness: Teacher's Talk"**

Durham, NC - Durham County continues to focus on improving school achievement across its public school system. Experts agree that a critical component to our success will turn on our ability to develop strong school readiness programs to ensure that our youngest students arrive at kindergarten ready to learn. In fact, we now know that the greatest achievement gap exists *before* a child even reaches kindergarten, and once that gap is created it is like a vector in geometry - the farther along it extends, the further apart the lines become.

Therefore, it is critical that schools and early child care providers work together to improve the transition from the early years to the school years. With that goal in mind, Durham's Partnership for Children, *a Smart Start initiative*, will be hosting an event in partnership with the Durham Public Education Network called "School Readiness: Teacher Talk." The goal of the event is to facilitate discussions between kindergarten teachers and early child care providers on the best collaborative strategies to achieve school readiness. The open-format discussion models the "Kitchen Table Conversations" that have been successful with Durham Public Schools. "School Readiness: Teacher Talk" will take place on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Staff Development Center on Hillandale Road.

KB Home, which is sponsoring the event, will provide grants for teachers to attend Saturday's program. Interested teachers and early child care providers can sign up for this event by contacting xxxxx.

After the program, a report will be released to the community which documents the contributions of the participants and the strategies that emerged from these discussions. The report will be available through Durham Public Schools at xxxxx. For more information, please contact Jeremy Evans at Durham's Partnership for Children at jeremy@dpfc.net

### *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](http://www.dpfc.net) or call 919-403-6960, ext. 234..*