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MEDIA ALERT

Durham County group visits General Assembly to request that legislators minimize cuts to vital services to young children

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

On **Tuesday, May 19** 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. More than 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:

- **not to cut vital services to young children during a weakened economy** when services to vulnerable young children and their families are even more needed
- **maintain the current local administration of More at Four and Smart Start**
- **use federal stimulus funding to support the child care needs of working families** and not supplant state funding for any other early childhood education program.

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 19, 2009 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 more than 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 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 birth to 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, ext. 221

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