



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EARLY YEARS ARE LEARNING YEARS

Ashe County Celebrates National Week of the Young Child

Jefferson, NC – Ashe County Partnership for Children asks Ashe County residents to come together for children during the Week of the Young Child (April 10-16, 2011). As part of the national Week of the Young Child, celebrated across the country, Ashe County is honoring young children and all those who make a difference in children's lives.

"All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning experiences that will prepare them for life, and Ashe County has a great opportunity to do our part to help young children," said Sarah Wolf, Director of the Partnership. "Week of the Young Child is time for our local community to recognize that early years are learning years for all young children."

This year Ashe County Partnership, in collaboration with Ashe County Department of Social Services, will hold the WOYC Family Fest and Field Day at Family Central on Friday, April 15 from 4 until 7 PM. Area child care providers and children's services agencies will participate with information tables and activities especially geared to children five-years and under. Ashe County Parks and Recreation staff is adding to the annual event a variety of Field Day activities in back of Family Central. All activities and food are free to families.

Young children and their families depend on high-quality education and care, which help children get a great start, and bring lasting benefits to North Carolina. Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning and early literacy, and to celebrate the teachers and policies that bring early childhood education to young children.

Ashe County Partnership for Children is a non-profit organization that provides programs and services for families and children in Ashe County. They fund or directly run various programs such as: Smart Start programs to benefit children ages birth through five and their families; domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and awareness services; health and dental services for young children; and parent support groups.

To learn more about Smart Start, North Carolina's early education initiative, visit www.smartstart.org. For more information about Ashe County Partnership for Children and their programs, visit www.ashechildren.org, or call (336) 982-4588.





Proclamation by Governor Beverly Perdue
Month of the Young Child
Week of the Young Child

WHEREAS, early childhood learning opportunities are critical to the growth and development of young children and to building a better future for everyone; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is committed to ensuring access to quality early education and learning opportunities through licensed child development centers, library programs geared to very young children, and other agencies and organizations that provide age appropriate learning opportunities to improve the cognitive and motor development of children ages 0-5 years; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children, the North Carolina Division of Child Development, and other interested agencies and organizations in recognizing and supporting the people, program and policies that are committed to high-quality early childhood education programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2011, as "Month of the Young Child" and April 10-16, 2011 as "Week of the Young Child", and urge all citizens to recognize and support the needs of young children in our state.

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