



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Press Release

Jan. 31, 2007
For Immediate Release

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WAKE COUNTY SMARTSTART ANNOUNCES JOINT PLAN TO COORDINATE REGISTRATION WITH OTHER LOCAL, PUBLICLY-FUNDED PRE-K PROGRAMS TO HELP BETTER SERVE 4-YEAR-OLDS, FAMILIES

RALEIGH -- Wake County SmartStart's More at Four Program, Wake County Public Schools' Pre-K Programs, Telamon Corporation's Head Start and Wake County Human Services' Child Care Subsidy Program announced, Tuesday, a new joint, county-wide effort to find and match at-risk 4-year-olds to pre-k services.

"To better serve 4-year-olds and their families, we have collaborated with Wake County Public Schools, Head Start and Wake County Human Services' Subsidy Office to develop a universal application and enrollment process for a variety of Pre-K programs," said Debi Bartholomew, Wake County More at Four Manager. "We will be able to serve families more efficiently and better manage wait lists between programs to ensure applicant information is not duplicated."

Since each program offers different services to 4-year-olds and their families, the county-wide application process is meant to match high needs children with appropriate services, while ensuring that families not served through one program won't have to reapply for another service. Also, many high needs families may not know the resources available to them to help prepare their children for kindergarten.

Beginning February 1, all agencies will be working together to collect and process pre-k applications. Wake County Public Schools will be accepting applications for their pre-k programs from February to April 13th. The other agencies will consider applications throughout the year. Wake County SmartStart will serve as the Pre-K Application Center, a central site to collect and process the applications.

To qualify for the pre-k programs, Wake County families must meet income eligibility guidelines and be able to provide transportation to and from the program. Children must also be 4 years of age on or before Oct.16, 2007.

This pre-kindergarten initiative is community-based, voluntary, and designed to prepare 4-year-olds for school with a focused curriculum that enhances children's development physically, socially, emotionally, mentally, which includes language, communication, cognitive, general knowledge and approaches to learning.

Pre-K Applications will be accepted across Wake County during the following dates and times:

Thursday, Feb. 6 th , 2007	Wake County SmartStart 1121 Situs Court, Suite 250 Raleigh, NC 27606	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 7 th , 2007	North Wake Human Services 247 South Allen St. Wake Forest, NC 27587	1:00 p.m. – 6:00p.m.

Press Release (continued)

Monday, Feb. 12 th , 2007	Southern Regional Center 130 N. Judd Parkway, NE Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 14 th , 2007	Wake County Human Services. 10 Sunnybrook Rd. Raleigh, NC 27610	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 19 th , 2007	Centro Para Familias Hispanas 2539- C Noblin Rd. Raleigh, NC 27604	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 21 st , 2007	North Wake Human Services 247 Allen St. Wake Forest, NC 27587	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 26 th , 2007	Child Care Services Association 319 Chapanoke Road Raleigh, NC 27603	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 28 th , 2007	East Regional Center 1002 Dogwood Dr. Zebulon, NC 27603	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 7 th , 2007	Wake County Human Services 220 Swinburne St. Raleigh, NC 27610	9:00 a. m. – 1:00 p.m.

Upon application, families must provide a copy of the child's birth certificate, proof of residence in Wake County (utility bill, lease or mortgage contract), and proof of annual income (tax forms, check stub indicating hourly wage and number of hours worked). For more information about the Pre-K Application, go to www.wakesmartstart.org/prek.php or call 851-9550 ext. 1408.

As a local partnership with the North Carolina Partnership for Children, **Wake County SmartStart** partners with national, state and local agencies, as well as other nonprofits that serve Wake County children, ages birth to 5, and their families through vital human service programs. Wake County SmartStart works to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care settings, identify and connect children to early intervention and other preventive health services and support families in a variety of ways. The organization also promotes, supports, and advocates for the needs of young children living in Wake County. To obtain more information on Wake County SmartStart's allocation of state funds and its activities with local partner agencies, visit www.wakesmartstart.org.

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