



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Wake County SmartStart Hosts Professional Development Seminar for Child Care Center Administrators

*Focus is on creating positive classroom environment*

RALEIGH, N.C. – **In keeping with its commitment to enhance the quality of child care centers by offering professional development opportunities for providers, on Wednesday, October 14, from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Wake County SmartStart will host a lunch and learn seminar for child care center administrators.** Gina Soceanu, of Wake County SmartStart will present “Guiding Children’s Behaviors Through Positive Relationships” during which she will focus on the importance of developing the relationship between a teacher and her/his children and on developing strategies for managing the classroom. The free seminar will be held at Wake County SmartStart’s Raleigh office located at 1121 Situs Court, Suite 250 and pre-registration is required. Participants may wish to bring a lunch as food is not provided

“In the child care setting, there is a tendency to focus on academic skill development with less attention paid to social and emotional skills, which are just as important as academic skills,” explains Soceanu. “In this seminar, we’ll talk about effective classroom techniques which promote mutual respect and a positive teacher–child interaction, and lead to the development of healthy social and emotional skills. Ultimately, the end result is a less stressful classroom environment in which children begin to develop the skills they need for success in school and life.”

Explains Elizabeth Santana, Wake County SmartStart Quality Enhancement Initiative Director, “At Wake County SmartStart, our overriding goal is to ensure children are prepared for success in school and in life. To that end, we are fortunate to be able to offer this seminar to our childcare professionals who can use the information to enrich their lives and those of Wake County’s children.”

### **About the presenter**

For seven years Apex resident Gina Soceanu has worked with Wake County SmartStart, where, as a quality enhancement specialist, she provides child care centers with a variety of services including consultation, training, and technical assistance at no cost to the facility. Through WCSS’s Quality Enhancement Initiative and Quality Maintenance Initiative, Soceanu works with one to three star child care centers and family child care homes to improve both the quality and level of care for children and the level of education for staff in those facilities, and with four and five star facilities to assist them in maintaining their higher level of care and licensure. A former child care teacher and director, Soceanu has over 25 years experience in the child care industry.

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**About Wake County SmartStart**

Wake County SmartStart is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure every child in Wake County, birth to 5, is prepared for success in school and life. Created in 1996, Wake County SmartStart works to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care settings, provide preventive health and early intervention services and offer family support services. The organization also promotes, supports, and advocates for the needs of young children living in Wake County. For more information about Wake County SmartStart, its partners and projects, visit [www.wakesmartstart.org](http://www.wakesmartstart.org) or call (919) 851-9550.

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