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*****Media Advisory*****

NEW Palmetto Pre-K Collaborative Initiative to Host Free Three-Day Training for South Carolina's Pre-K Teachers

WHAT: For the first time ever, South Carolina's four-year-old kindergarten teachers from across federal, state and local Pre-K programs are coming together to learn from experts and each other during the inaugural "**Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree**". This FREE three-day professional development training, coordinated by the new Palmetto Pre-K initiative, is a combined effort among South Carolina First Steps, Head Start, the South Carolina Department of Education and the SC Department of Social Services to help families find free and subsidized Pre-K programs for four-year-olds in South Carolina.

This week, hundreds of four-year old kindergarten teachers from public school districts, private, community and faith-based Pre-K programs will learn the latest early childhood teaching techniques from leading early education experts Lisa Murphy ([the Ooey Gooey Lady](#)), Anthony Broughton, Ph.D. ([Mister B](#)) and Conscious Discipline certified instructors. Breakout sessions on a variety of topics, such as Conscious Discipline and Purposeful Play will also be offered.

WHO: Early childhood educators (Pre-K teachers)

WHEN: Tuesday, June 11 through Thursday, June 13 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: ****Correction**** (*Three days at three locations occurring simultaneously*)

- **Lowcountry:** Westview Primary School, 98 Westview Drive, Goose Creek, SC 29445
- **Midlands:** Lexington Two Center for Innovation, 509 Bulldog Boulevard, Cayce, SC 29033
- **Upstate:** Laurens District High School, Laurens, SC 29360

WHY: Early childhood teachers are among the lowest paid in the education profession with few quality professional development opportunities available. The Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree will provide South Carolina's early childhood educators access to free, top-notch training with industry experts. The Jamboree is the first in many activities to support Pre-K teachers in SC under this new Palmetto Pre-K initiative. It is made possible through a \$3.5 million federal Preschool Development Grant led by the SC Department of Social Services and coordinated and administered in partnership with SC First Steps, The SC Department of Education and the Head Start Collaboration Office.

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