



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PALMETTO PRE-K INITIATIVE HOSTS FREE TRAININGS ACROSS THE STATE  
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS**

**Columbia, S.C.** Hundreds of South Carolina’s Pre-K (pre-kindergarten) teachers are learning new top-notch strategies and techniques to educate and engage young learners at the Palmetto Pre-K Fall Jamboree on November 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The free professional development training will be offered in four regions of the state at the same time and is open to the state’s four-year-old teachers, administrators, coaches and curriculum support specialists from across federal, state and locally-funded Pre-K programs.

The training is coordinated effort among [South Carolina First Steps](#), SC [Head Start](#) Collaborative Office, the [South Carolina Department of Education](#) and the [South Carolina Department of Social Services](#) under the newly formed Palmetto Pre-K initiative, created to help families find free and subsidized Pre-K4 programs and to support teachers of four-year-old children in South Carolina.

“It has been a great experience working with our agency partners to bring early childhood educators together to get the training they need to be even more effective in the classroom,” said Georgia Mjartan, executive director of South Carolina First Steps, the state’s only dedicated early childhood agency. “Through continued collaboration with other agencies under this new Palmetto Pre-K initiative, we aim to connect families throughout South Carolina with quality Pre-K programs for their children.”

[Conscious Discipline](#)<sup>®</sup> Master Instructor Elizabeth Montero-Cefalo, [Conscious Discipline](#)<sup>®</sup> Certified Instructors Susan Kirby, Heidi Condrey, and Sarah Catherine Rhodes were called upon to share the latest early childhood education strategies and techniques for classroom learning and engagement. Our Fall Jamboree 2019 focus is focused on the book, “Managing Emotional

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Mayhem”, with all participating sites receiving copies. All participants will receive 5 hours of DSS certified training credits in Child Guidance (CG).

Early childhood teachers are among the lowest paid in the education profession with few quality professional development opportunities. The Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree provides four-year-old teachers access to free, top-notch professional development training they would not typically have access to. The Fall Jamboree was held in four locations across the state: Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative Training Center in Walterboro, Midlands Tech College Airport Campus in West Columbia, Thornwell in Clinton and in Marion County and was one of many projects made possible through a \$3.5 million federal Preschool Development Grant to the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

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### **About Palmetto Pre-K**

*Palmetto Pre-K is a new initiative derived from the Preschool Development Birth-5 Grant, a \$3.5 million federal grant to the S.C. Department of Social Services. The grant activities are coordinated and administered in partnership with SC First Steps, the South Carolina Department of Education and the Head Start Collaboration Office. Palmetto Pre-K is a collaboration that involves all partners across Pre-K programs statewide serving 4-year-olds.*

### **About ECAC**

*The South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) includes the directors of state agencies and government entities that provide services to young children including the Department of Education, Department of Social Services, Department of Health and Environmental Control, Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Trust, Head Start Collaboration Office and SC First Steps, which is the connector and convener of all early childhood serving agencies.*

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