



*...ensuring affordable, accessible, high quality child care for all young children.*

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**For Immediate Release**

June 18, 2009

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**Local child care to be honored for promoting outstanding teacher education**

On Friday, June 19, 2009, Phillips-Gwaltney Child Development Center in Spruce Pine, NC, will be honored for its outstanding support of staff education and professional development.

At Child Care Services Association's (CCSA) Annual Awards Celebration & Auction, the North Carolina Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development and the NC Division of Child Development along with CCSA will recognize Phillips-Gwaltney Child Development Center as one of 9 child care centers and family child care homes from throughout the state to be awarded the 2009 Professional Development Award.

Phillips-Gwaltney Child Development Center is located on the main campus of Mayland Community College. The Center has a 5-star rated license, the highest recognition of quality awarded by the NC Division of Child Development, and is nationally accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The center serves up to 117 children when at capacity.

The Professional Development Awards recognize exemplary early care and education programs that value and promote teacher education. This year, four- and five-star child care programs that earned high points for teacher education on their rated license on or before December 31, 2008, were eligible to apply.

Winners will receive a prize of \$500 - \$3,500, which can be used to help off-set the financial costs of supporting teacher education, provide an incentive or bonus reward for staff members who have completed coursework in early childhood education, or support the costs associated with other professional development opportunities.

The other centers and homes to be recognized for their commitment to teacher education are:

Little Hands Child Care Center  
Catawba County

Community Action Opportunities-Laurel Elem HS  
Madison County

NC A&T State University Child Development Lab  
Guilford County

Circle of Friends  
Burke County

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Tri County Early Education and Preschool  
Cherokee County

Lord of Life Preschool and Kindergarten Academy  
Wake County

Children's Center for the Physically Disabled  
Forsyth County

Hattie Daniels Day Care Center  
Wilson County

In addition to the Professional Development Awards, the James and Carolyn Hunt Early Childhood Award will be presented to Roslyn Savitt, lobbyist and public policy consultant for the North Carolina Child Care Coalition, in recognition of the significant impact her work has had on the children of North Carolina.

Prior to the awards ceremony, CCSA will host its annual auction to raise money to support its work to improve the quality of early care and education being provided in North Carolina.

*About CCSA:*

*Founded in 1974, CCSA is a nationally recognized nonprofit working to ensure affordable, accessible, high-quality child care for all children and families. The organization accomplishes its mission through direct services, research and advocacy. CCSA provides a nutrition program for children in child care settings, free referral services to families seeking child care, and quality improvement assistance to child care businesses. CCSA's T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project provides educational scholarships to early childhood educators across North Carolina and is licensed in 20 other states. The Child Care WAGE\$® Project provides salary supplements to child care providers throughout the state and is licensed in three other states. For more information please visit [www.childcareservices.org](http://www.childcareservices.org).*

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