



**For Immediate Release**

*Monday, November 15, 2004*

Contact: **Caswell County Partnership for Children** (336)694-1538  
Louise Bendall, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Sandra Hudspeth, Executive Director

**Quality Enhancement Specialist Improving Quality of Child Care**

Caswell County Partnership for Children is using Smart Start funds to improve the quality of local child care with the help of a wonderful new Child Care Quality Enhancement Specialist, Melanie McLarty.

“I serve as a resource for child care centers and family child care homes to assist them in increasing their star ratings by helping them with child care quality assessments, developing classroom activities and just being a guide by their side and helping them with all their child care related needs,” said McLarty.

McLarty provides intensive, on-site technical assistance to child care facilities with a one, two or three star rated licensure. After an assessment from the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, McLarty works with child care directors and staff to develop an action plan on the kind of improvements they want to make to increase their star rating. She then helps with paperwork, policies and procedures, as well as on-site training workshops that range from “messy play” art to promoting problem solving skills in children.

Her love of working with children began with her mother. As a small girl, McLarty sometimes accompanied her mother to hospitals as she worked with children with special needs, and grew up watching her mother advocate for all children and their families.

When she was 15 years old, McLarty began her career in child care working in after-school care at a Montessori school. Since then, she has been a teacher in the classroom, a director, a grant writer with a full scope of experiences in the child care world.



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“When I walk into a child care program I come with that understanding, that history. I’m comfortable with changing diapers, running noses, crying babies, comforting families,” she said. “I hope Caswell will use me as a resource.”

For more information contact Melanie McLarty at (336) 694-4333 or Caswell County Partnership for Children at 694-1538.