



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WAKE COUNTY SMARTSTART HOSTS 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION FAITH BREAKFAST

RALEIGH, NC – Wake County SmartStart will host its first Faith Breakfast, gathering a diverse group of Faith Leaders around the common cause of supporting young children. **Along with Wake County SmartStart, the event is Co-Hosted by Rev. Dumas Harshaw, Jr., Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church, and Rabbi Lucy Dinner, Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Or.** Leaders will hear a presentation on The First 2000 Days by North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation’s Executive Director Susan Perry-Manning and share ways they support young children with one another.

“We all want the best for every child – our faith encourages us to nurture, protect and lead our children to their greatest potential. I’m proud to host this event where I can share ideas with other faith leaders, and feel affirmed in the work we do with families and their young children. Quality early experiences matter in the lives of young children. We look forward to learning how child development can be maximized for success through the church, home and classroom.” – Pastor Harshaw Dumas, Jr., First Baptist Church

“Young children at Temple Beth Or are like sponges, ready to soak up every experience. We know we have a great responsibility to match that eagerness to learn with programs that foster the greatest opportunities for their future. It will be interesting to hear how other faiths support young children, and see where we can exchange ideas that help us both.” – Senior Rabbi Lucy Dinner, Temple Beth Or Synagogue

**Leaders of Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran denominations will join Muslim and Jewish leaders in sharing ideas across faiths around effective ways to support young children and their families.** The event kicks off a new circle of stakeholders and affirms the work of the faith community in supporting children and families.

**What:** Wake County SmartStart Faith Breakfast  
**Where:** First Baptist Church, 101 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC, 27601  
Dining Room on first floor of Church building  
**When:** Thursday, 8:30 – 10:00 A.M.

### About Wake County SmartStart

Wake County SmartStart works to ensure children, birth to five, are prepared for success in school and in life. This mission is carried out in three goal areas; accessible and available high quality child care, safe and healthy living environments and kindergarten readiness. Through community collaborations and funding of local partners, we expand the support available to children and their families. By working together, we are strengthening the outcomes for not only our children, but our entire community. To learn more about our mission, visit [www.wakesmartstart.org](http://www.wakesmartstart.org).