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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Early Childhood Initiative Announces Activities for the Month of the Young Child in Transylvania County

BREVARD, NC – Every spring, The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. Transylvania County's Early Childhood Initiative embraces this by celebrating The Month of the Young Child which starts on April 1st and continues through May 6th.

The organizations that collaborate as the Early Childhood Initiative in Transylvania County have activities planned during the month of April into early May that recognize the importance of quality early childhood education, the teachers that provide it, and the important role of families and the community.

The activities for Month of the Young Child 2017 include:

Kindergarten Readiness Rally takes place on April 6th from 4 PM – 7 PM at the Transylvania County Recreation Department. WCCA, The Family Place, Transylvania Public Schools, and Smart Start of Transylvania County are organizing the rally. There will be lots of fun free activities where children and their families can meet kindergarten teachers and representatives from across the county.

Kindergarten Registration for 2017-2018 for students entering public school kindergarten in Transylvania County Schools takes place on April 11th from 8:30 AM – 4 PM, April 12th from 8:30 AM – 4 PM, and April 13th from 8:30 AM – 6 PM. Please go to tcsnc.org/kinder for additional information.

Registration will also take place for Smart Start to Kindergarten – children can jump to kindergarten with confidence! This is a one week kindergarten transition program that takes place in August, right before school starts. Rising kindergarteners meet their fellow classmates, teachers, and get to know their new school environment along with many learning opportunities.

Smart Start of Transylvania County celebrates preschool teacher appreciation during the week of April 24th – 28th by providing lunch for preschool teachers to honor and thank them for the care and education they provide the county's youngest citizens.

Children's Book Week is a national event which will be celebrated this year at the Library from May 1st - 6th. Families can drop-in from 10 AM - 5:30 PM each day to enjoy a book-related craft or activity and put each child's name in a drawing for a free book. Books being celebrated this year include "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom," "Clifford the Big Red Dog," "Hi Fly Guy," and more!

Family Fun Day with "Spring into Books" is an event that will be held at the Transylvania County Library on Saturday, May 6th, from 11 AM – 2 PM to conclude Children's Book Week. The Family Place and the Transylvania County Library are co-hosting this event, and multiple organizations, schools, and businesses are joining the partnership to provide an interactive book adventure course where kids ages 4-12 can journey through each group's interpretation of a different children's book.

Transylvania County Public Schools is celebrating teacher appreciation week May 1st – 5th.

Positive Parenting Seminars, part of the Family Dinner Series continue monthly through May. April's event, Hidden in Plain Sight on the 24th will be focused towards parents of middle and high school children. May's event, on the 22nd will be a Summer Fun Fair. More information will follow at a later date.

All young children and their families deserve positive early learning experiences that prepare them for life and these experiences bring lasting benefits to Transylvania County. Please take time in April to thank and honor an early childcare educator and/or an organization that provides services to young children and their families.

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