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For Immediate Release

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2009 EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE SET TO DRAW A CROWD EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS

MENANDS, NY –Every day, child care professionals care for more than 21,000 children between the ages of 0-9 in the Capital Region. The children and families of the Capital District depend on these dedicated individuals every day. On Monday, February 16, 2009 (Presidents' Day), hundreds of Capital area early childhood professionals will once again come together in an effort to improve their knowledge of the early education field for the benefit of the children in their programs.

Each year, the Capital District Child Care Council brings together the best and the brightest in early care and education from throughout the Capital Region to present the latest information on infant/toddler development, childhood nutrition, behavioral issues, sign language, and much more. Early childhood professionals come together to learn from the experts, network with peers, and advance their own knowledge of the early childhood field.

“Quality child care truly is part of the state’s economic infrastructure. Without quality, reliable care, working parents are at a disadvantage. The education of our children’s caregivers is critical not only to improving the quality of child care, but it also allows parents to ‘work without worry’,” said Patricia Skinner, Executive Director of the Child Care Council. “This conference is an opportunity for those who work so hard everyday caring for our children to have a chance to grow, learn and develop as professionals.”

The conference, which is also open to the public, will take place on Monday, February 16, 2009 at LaSalle Institute in Troy beginning at 8:00 am. The cost is \$85 (\$75 for members of the Council). The conference brochure and registration form are available on the Council’s website at www.cdcccc.org/training.

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The mission of the Capital District Child Care Council is to promote quality early care and education in the region and to help others recognize that *an investment in the education of our youngest children is an investment in our future.*