



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oklahoma City Educare announces Director of Early Childhood Services

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma City Educare has selected Paula Gates as the director of early childhood services for the Oklahoma City center scheduled to open in 2009 at Byers Avenue and Southeast Grand Boulevard.

Gates will oversee development of Educare’s programs, which will provide year-round education, developmental childcare and mental health services to infants, young children and families. Gates will collaborate with the leadership team of all programs to ensure the highest quality outcome-based learning environments for children who are at-risk for school failure. She will also provide vision, motivation and leadership to all Oklahoma City Educare employees, families and volunteers.

“So many at-risk children enter kindergarten already behind in their learning. Educare’s programs were created to give these children, prenatal to five years old, a more prosperous education and future.” Gates said. “I am honored to be a part of this mission.”

Gates earned her bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from the University of Oklahoma in 2003. Gates is also the Early Childhood Services Director for Early Head Start and Sunbeam Child Development Center.

“Paula Gates brings years of experience to Oklahoma City Educare,” said Bob Ross, chairman of the Educare Board of Directors and president of Inasmuch Foundation. “We are fortunate to have someone with such expertise leading the development of our programs.”

About Educare

Founded by the Ounce of Prevention Fund in Chicago in 2000, Educare Centers are committed to helping young children grow up safe, healthy and eager to learn. Through a consortium of partners, Educare supporters create, provide and promote the highest quality outcome-based learning environments for families and their children (ages prenatal to five years) who are at-risk for school failure. Educare principles and practices are based on continual research and implementation within the field of early childhood education. The success of the children who enter this program will demonstrate the societal and economic value of investing in the earliest years in order to prevent the need for costly interventions later.

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