



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Catherine Campbell  
713-600-1117 or  
ccampbell@collabforchildren.org

# Take Time Today to Love a Child!

## Collaborative for Children Encourages Parents to Interact with Young Children

HOUSTON, Texas (April 4, 2005) – Playing a game of peek-a-boo with a baby. . . reading a book with a toddler. . . rolling a ball back and forth with a small child. . . these are just a few simple ways to interact with young children. Did you know that a child’s early experiences contribute significantly to the development of their future brainpower? Research has demonstrated what many parents already know...that loving, nurturing and stimulating early experiences are essential to their child’s healthy growth and brain development.

Collaborative for Children encourages adults to take time today to make a positive difference in a child’s life! Investing time and resources in our young children -- whether it be spending time together as a family or allocating resources for quality child care and preschool education – is the best thing we can do for our youngest children, ages zero to six. According to numerous research studies, investing in quality early care and education is also the best drop-out prevention strategy, the best economic development investment, and the best human capital investment that we can make.

**April 4 – 9, 2005 is national “Week of the Young Child.”** Collaborative for Children is encouraging Houstonians to give all children a chance to form a foundation during these important early years to enable them to develop to their full potential. Collaborative for Children works with other organizations and individuals to increase awareness, understanding and resources to address the critical early years of life.

“If you have children of your own, enjoy them. Take the time to make them feel special and loved. If you interact with children at a school or at your place of worship, take their questions seriously, call them by name, engage them in conversation. If you don’t have an opportunity to engage children directly, support efforts in your community that strengthen families and that help young children get off to a great start in school and in life,” states Carol Shattuck, President, Collaborative for Children.

“Take Time Today to Love...”

Page 2 of 2

During Week of the Young Child let's encourage Houstonians to remember that every child is developed one interaction at a time and that early investments pay off significantly to the child, their family and to the community. Make Houston's youngest children our top priority not only this week but every week.

Collaborative for Children works to improve the quality of early care and education through educational programs for parents and early education professionals, public awareness campaigns, and efforts to strengthen the overall early care and education system. Its mission is to partner with families and communities to build a strong foundation for young children to succeed in school and life. Collaborative for Children helps connect parents with all of their parenting needs. Call 713-600-1100. Information is also available on the website at [www.collabforchildren.org](http://www.collabforchildren.org)

- End -

Collaborative for Children is a non-profit organization created from the merger of the Greater Houston Collaborative for Children and Initiatives for Children. Our mission is to partner with families and communities to build a strong foundation for young children to succeed in school and life. **Visit us online at: [www.collabforchildren.org](http://www.collabforchildren.org)**