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NEWS RELEASE: LUCY DANIELS CENTER ANNOUNCES JANUARY 2012 TOPIC FOR LUCY'S BOOK CLUB

Cary, NC—The Lucy Daniels Center announces the January 2012 topic for Lucy's Book Club, "Relationship with the Earth."

"This topic explores our planet, the environment, and some of the ways humans impact the earth," notes Jennifer Reid, the Center's assistant education director and the chair of the book selection panel for Lucy's Book Club (LBC). "For younger children, we have selected books that illustrate an appreciation for the earth and its inhabitants, while the books for older children explore ways to care for the environment such as recycling and reusing."

Launched in May 2009, Lucy's Book Club is a free community outreach program for Wake County children from infancy to age six and their parents. LBC supports healthy social and emotional growth in young children by encouraging parents to read to them books that approach important developmental themes in a safe and reassuring way. Each list includes titles appropriate for sharing with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarteners, plus recommended reading for parents themselves.

Additional themes for 2011-12 include "Families" (released in September 2011) and "Relationships with Peers" (available in May 2012).

The reading lists are printed on colorful, oversized bookmarks and are available at no cost at more than 200 locations throughout Wake County (including public libraries, preschools, child care centers, pediatricians' offices, and bookstores) and online at www.lucysbookclub.org.

In addition to Reid, members of the LBC book selection panel include the Center's education director, Deborah Mugno, Ed.D; teachers in the Early Intervention Program; social workers in the Family Guidance Program; and Deborah Shreve, a Wake County children's librarian.

The third year of Lucy's Book Club has been funded by presenting sponsor The Body Shop, event sponsor Wells Fargo and platinum sponsors Time Warner Cable and Steven and Rebecca Scott. Each spring, LBC presents **Bookmarked!**, a 10-day celebration of reading with children, featuring free readings by local celebrity-heroes and an acclaimed children's author.

For the latest information on LBC booklists, the weekly LBC Blog, and the featured author and dates for Bookmarked! 2012, visit www.lucysbookclub.org and follow the Center on Facebook.

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Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, the Lucy Daniels Center, formerly the Lucy Daniels Center for Early Childhood, is a nationally recognized model for childhood mental health education and services. The Center is the largest and most comprehensive non-profit focused on providing mental health services to young children and their families in the Triangle and is conveniently located at 9003 Weston Parkway, Cary, NC 27513. For more information, visit www.lucydanielscenter.org.