



Introducing the newly renovated Durant Depot

The old Railroad Station

206 East Mulberry Street  
Durant, Mississippi

**The Goal of Excel by 5  
In Durant, MS:**

Designated as a certified organization by Excel by 5, Inc.

**Goal: Healthy, happy, safe and literate children as they begin Kindergarten**



It is all about the children

**Excel by 5** is an innovative early childhood certification program that focuses on the important role parents, early childhood educators and community leaders play in the lives of children during their most formative years - birth to 5. It is all about parents, educators and community leaders working together within a Child-Friendly Community .

## Health and Safety

How healthy and safe are our children in their early years of growth?

- ◆ Surveys will be completed by local pediatricians, family doctors, and professional child care providers in Durant.
- ◆ A needed focus will be on immunizations and safety issues
- ◆ Health risks will be evaluated: obesity, poor nutrition and safety issues

## Family and Parent Support

- ◆ We will spotlight the many and varied resources—both human and materials—that we do have in this city of Durant
- ◆ We will find ways and means to help all families discover and use the resources we have to help them find fulfillment as parents of pre-school children.



## Focus of Excel by 5

*Excel by 5 takes an holistic approach to child development and growth: Our focus will be:*

- ◆ *Early Care and Education*
- ◆ *Health and Safety*
- ◆ *Family and Parent Support*
- ◆ *Community Needs Assessment*

## Early Care and Education

- ◆ We will present to the community the data on children from birth to age 5.
- ◆ We will ascertain how many children are in structured classrooms—Headstart, child care centers both licensed and unlicensed
- ◆ We will try to determine how many children are homeless in Durant
- ◆ We will work with early care educators to offer the children all the benefits for growth that Durant can offer

## Community Needs Assessment

Needs Assessment Surveys will be circulated to:

- ◆ Families at Day Care Centers and schools
- ◆ Health Care Providers
- ◆ Childcare providers and educators

## Community Involvement

- ◆ Community Leaders will promote resources and support citywide events
- ◆ Community leaders, organizations, churches and businesses will support early childhood development opportunities in the City of Durant.

## Community Action Plan

- ◆ We will make presentations to the community at City Hall Meetings.
- ◆ We will compile a Community Resource Guide
- ◆ We will establish a Family Resource Center at the newly renovated Durant Depot
- ◆ We will enlist volunteers to help with community events
- ◆ We will hold Community wide family events