**How well do you know our children?** Take this short quiz to test your knowledge of the children served by Durham County DSS. (Answers below)

1. The number of children coming into DSS custody each fiscal year from July 1, 1996 through June 30, 2001 has:
   a. decreased  
   b. stayed about the same  
   c. increased

2. Which age group represents the largest proportion of children coming in to custody over the past 6 years?
   a. 0 – 5 year olds  
   b. 6 – 12 year olds  
   c. 13 – 18 year olds

3. Children of African American racial identity are initially placed with relatives more often than children of other racial groups.
   a. True  
   b. False

4. What percent of children in DSS custody since FY 96 have only been placed with a foster family or relative?
   a. 70  
   b. 75  
   c. 80  
   d. 85

5. Durham County’s data shows that children who are initially placed with relatives generally experience fewer moves than children initially placed in foster homes and group homes.
   a. True  
   b. False

6. What percent of children in DSS custody since FY 96 experienced only one placement while in custody?
   a. 18  
   b. 22  
   c. 29  
   d. 33

7. Since FY 96, what percent of children left DSS custody within 360 days?
   a. 35  
   b. 40  
   c. 45  
   d. 50


The answers to the questions above show that over the years Durham County has worked diligently to improve the lives of children who come into DSS Custody.

The Family to Family Self-Evaluation team is charged to continue to document the experiences of children in custody. The Self-Evaluation team will also work with the other core strategies of Family to Family to track efforts specifically targeted at
reducing entry into DSS custody. Self Evaluation is responsible for reporting on progress toward the five Family to Family outcomes outlined below:

1. Durham County Children are safe with their family;
2. When children cannot remain safely with their family, children are placed in the least restrictive placement appropriate to the child’s needs;
3. Children have one, stable out-of-home placement;
4. Every child in DSS custody has a permanent home within one year;
5. Children no longer in DSS custody remain safe and well in the community.

Family to Family believes it takes a whole village to raise a child. All of us have skills and resources, and children benefit from several adult supporters. To facilitate community-wide collaboration, Self-Evaluation will disseminate information about the experiences of DSS children not only with DSS staff, but with community partners and the Durham County community.

Please be on the look out for MORE information on the five Family to Family outcomes in the newsletter, on agency bulletin boards, via email and through other mechanisms soon to follow!