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FOR RELEASE: Embargoes listed below

Hurricanes Katrina & Rita: How Did They Impact Children?
Child Development Experts Address Issue of Disasters and Children

The 2007 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) will bring together leading experts who have studied the impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on children in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Several sessions during the meeting will look at studies that have examined impact of the hurricanes on displacement of children, children's education, emotional development, ability to deal with post traumatic stress, and other developmental issues.

The specific titles and timings of these sessions are:

- Dysfunctional thoughts and feelings following hurricane Katrina, Thursday, March 29, 2007, at 12:30 PM;
- Katrina's Children: Lessons Learned About Children in Disasters, Friday, March 30, at 10:30 AM;
- A poster session including data on Teacher Responses to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; Friday, March 30, at 12:00 noon; and a poster session including data on Coping with Hurricane Katrina, Saturday, March 31 at noon;
- The Ethics of Conducting Research Post-Disaster, Saturday, March 31, at 8:30 AM;
- A Committee Paper Symposium on: In the Eye of the Storm: Lessons from Katrina's and Rita's Children, Saturday, March 31 at 2:30 PM.

Reporters are advised to contact Andrea Browning at SRCD to set up interviews well in advance of these sessions. Some of the presenters may have limited availability to do interviews during the meeting and media are advised to set up phone interviews through the SRCD communications office.