

## PRESS RELEASE

**Contact: Wendy Berube-Gamache**  
**Androscoggin Head Start & Child Care**  
**269 Bates Street, Lewiston, ME 04240**  
**(207) 795-4040 ext. 348**  
**Fax: (207) 795-4044**  
**E-mail: [wberubegamache@androkids.com](mailto:wberubegamache@androkids.com)**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Androscoggin Head Start participates in Early Reading First**

**Lewiston, ME (December 9, 2008)** - Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care is thrilled to announce its participation in Early Reading First (ERF) – “Early Literacy for Every Child”. The Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine is overseeing the three year, \$4.6 million grant. With over 400 applications submitted, Androscoggin Head Start is one of forty non-profit agencies and school departments in the State of Maine awarded the grant to help preschool children deemed “at-risk” for reading failure (low SES and limited or no English proficiency) through intensive professional development and the implementation of a scientifically-based curriculum.

Androscoggin Head Start has five centers participating in the curriculum: FDC, Longley Pre-Kindergarten, B Street, Washburn and River Street. Teachers of participating classrooms will be attending monthly trainings and hands-on coaching from ERF. The grant will also provide materials to enhance literacy practices in the classroom. Each classroom will also receive a new computer and other technology for classroom use.

We are also pleased to announce that Anneke MacIsaac, former Head Teacher at the Hillview Center, has been hired as our Early Reading Specialist. Anneke will ensure compliance with all grant functions, and work with Head Start staff, families, and children to take full advantage of ERF grant opportunities.

Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care has provided quality child development services to pregnant women, families, and children, newborn to age five, for over forty-three years. Program options include Full Day, Half Day, Pre-Kindergarten partnerships with local elementary schools, Home Based, Family Child Care, Infant and Toddler Early Head Start, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Services through these programs are provided annually to over nine hundred children and families throughout Androscoggin County. Centers are located in Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon Falls, Livermore Falls, and Mechanic Falls.

Applications for all Head Start programs are accepted at any time. Full day childcare services are available on a sliding fee scale for parents who are working, continuing their education, or participating in job training thirty or more hours per week. Please call (207) 795-4040 for more information. Please visit our website at [www.androkids.com](http://www.androkids.com). Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care is a United Way funded and Lewiston and Auburn CDBG supported agency.

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