

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Androscoggin Head Start announces 07-08 Child Outcomes

Lewiston, ME (August 12, 2008)- Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care is pleased to announce that 98 percent of four and five year old children participating in our program achieved kindergarten readiness skills, including children with disabilities. These statistics were for the academic year September 2007 to June 2008.

During fall 2007, 37 percent of children in our program were prepared to begin kindergarten. Testing in winter 2008 found that the number rose to 68 percent, and at the end of the academic year, 98 percent of all Head Start children, four to five years old, were prepared to begin school in the fall.

To determine child outcomes, Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care follows strict procedures. Creative Curriculum, developed by Teaching Strategies, is utilized by Teachers and Family Educators in all Head Start programs to plan developmentally appropriate activities for the children served by Androscoggin Head Start. Data is collected on each child three times per year, during fall, winter, and spring. Once all data is collected, information can be determined for all Head Start Domains and 13 mandated indicators as well as social-emotional, physical, cognitive and language development. Reports run at this time indicate individual classroom progress, agency progress and comparisons for all of our programs. Program data is reviewed to identify areas of training and support needed to improve child outcomes. This data is also used to identify training plans for the agency and classrooms.

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, 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. Most Head Start programs are free to eligible children. Full day childcare services are available on a sliding fee scale for parents who are working, continuing their education, or participating in job training. Please call (207) 795-4040 for more information. Please visit our website, 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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