

## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Head Start children read with Lewiston MAINEiacs

**Lewiston, ME (February 12, 2010)-** Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care's River Street Pre-Kindergarten and Child Care Center, Washburn Pre-Kindergarten and Child Care Center, B Street Pre-Kindergarten and Child Care Center and Hillview Pre-Kindergarten Center were recently visited by members of the Lewiston MAINEiacs hockey team. Players read to the children as part of the MAINEiacs' "Lewy's Read to Succeed" program. This program encourages early reading by having team members visit elementary schools, pre-kindergarten programs, and child care centers to read with the children.

Participating in Head Start's reading events were Lewiston MAINEiacs #42 Eric Bonowitz, #3 Zack Evans-Renaud, # 41 Jordan Kennedy, # 22 Stefan Fournier, and #27 Cameron Critchlow. Players read to approximately 125 children, ages 3 to 5, in their visits to the four Head Start Centers.

"Promoting early reading is so important in a child's development. Having the Lewiston MAINEiacs come to visit with Head Start's children, and more importantly read to them, shows their dedication to our youngest community members" said Estelle Rubinstein, Executive Director of Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care. "Thanks to Elaine Makas, Chair of our Board of Directors, for assisting to make these visits possible, and to the Lewiston MAINEiacs players for being such positive reading role models for our children."

The Lewiston MAINEiacs Hockey Club is the only American based team in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. The MAINEiacs are currently in their seventh season, and is proud to provide quality entertainment to the Lewiston-Auburn area.



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 five 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.

*Photo Attachment: Lewiston MAINEiacs' player Eric Bonowitz reads to 3 year old Cassidy Lessard of Mechanic Falls at Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care's Hillview Pre-K Center.*

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