

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEWISTON AUBURN COLLEGE STUDENT COMPLETES INTERNSHIP AT ANDROSCOGGIN HEAD START

Lewiston, ME (August 29, 2007) – Lewiston Auburn College student Sam Hill, of Auburn, recently completed an internship at Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care. In his last year double majoring in Leadership and Organizational Studies, and Social and Behavioral Sciences, Hill researched the effects of computers in pre-school classrooms. Through a very generous donation from University of Southern Maine and Lewiston Auburn College, Hill created a six station computer lab at Androscoggin Head Start's Coburn building in Lewiston, as well as having additional computers donated to other Head Start classrooms in Lewiston and Auburn. From July to August, Hill worked with children, ages 3 to 5, in Head Start's full day pre-school classrooms.

Beginning with reading and math assessments, and screening for letter and number comprehension, Hill assigned each child developmentally appropriate software and charted their progress. Hill found that many of the problems with using computers in the classroom had more to do with technical issues than the children's ability to understand the software. To stop wandering eyes, Hill used headphones on half the children in the classroom. Since they could not hear what was occurring at the computer next to them, they were only interested in their own software. "By solving the technical and logistical issues early on, the teacher will be able to focus on the learning," said Hill

Still compiling his data, Hill says he sees good outcomes. "The Maine Learning Technology Initiative currently works with 7th to 12th graders. There is not much funding for pre-schools to acquire computers. Children at this age should have computers in their classroom. Companies that are upgrading their computers systems could help pre-schools to have computers in their classrooms by donating their older models. Lewiston Auburn College donated old computers to Androscoggin Head Start, and we were able to introduce computers to these children. As long as the computer can run an educational game, then it can be used by a child. I am very anxious to continue working on this idea."

Androscoggin Head Start & Child Care has provided quality child development services to pregnant women, families, and children, newborn to age five, for over forty-one years. Program options include Full Day, Half Day, Home Based, Family Childcare, and Infant and Toddler Early Head Start. Services through these programs are provided annually to over four hundred

children and families throughout Androscoggin County. Centers are located in Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon Falls, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls and Turner.

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 at www.androkids.com. Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care is a United Way funded and Lewiston and Auburn CDBG supported agency.

Photo attachment: Sam Hill, Lewiston Auburn College student intern at Androscoggin Head Start, helps 5 year old Dakota H. of Lewiston with her software, while Megan G., also age 5, of Sabattus looks on.



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