

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WALDENBOOKS CUSTOMERS SUPPORT READING AT ANDROSCOGGIN HEAD START

Lewiston, ME (April 16, 2009)- Through the generosity of customers of Waldenbooks, located in the Auburn Mall, Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care has been the beneficiary of approximately 300 books to date. Customers have been given the option of purchasing a book or books of their choosing at checkout. These books will then be distributed to Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care's nineteen classrooms. Head Start programs are available for children from birth to age five, and pregnant women.

"Books and early reading are an integral part of a child's development and of Head Start programs," said Estelle Rubinstein, Executive Director of Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care. "The generosity of Waldenbooks and its customers is amazing! People in our community believe in the power of books, and by donating to Head Start, they are making a huge impact on children. Books have the power to send children on magical voyages, and when children are read to and looking at books at an early age, they develop an appreciation not only for books, but also for learning. By putting books in the hands of children of all ages, Waldenbooks and their customers are giving children a head start."

Waldenbooks will be collecting donated books for Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care through May 4. For more information, please call Waldenbooks at 783-8946.

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

Photo attachment: Camden (age 2) and Cavin (5 months) enjoy reading “Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed” with Androscoggin Head Start Family Educator Donna Booker.



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