

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANDROSCOGGIN HEAD START'S WASHBURN CENTER PREPARES CHILDREN TO ENTER KINDERGARTEN

Lewiston, ME (May 16, 2007)- Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care's Washburn Center Classroom #2 is hard at work preparing their four and five year olds for their next big challenge: entering Kindergarten. Thirteen of the eighteen students currently enrolled in this full day, full year pre-school and child care classroom will be leaving in August to begin elementary school.

Teacher Regina Palumbo, along with Teacher Assistants Becky Lowe, Melinda Blair, and Jennifer Lee have been working with the children all year on not only pre-school skills, such as colors, numbers, and letters, but also science, writing, and math skills. For science, the children have been learning about animal habitats, hatching eggs, and a favorite of the kids, mud. The eighteen children have been busy writing their letters, and practicing their names. Charting and graphing has been taught to build math and language skills. Through simple cooking skills, such as measuring ingredients and preparing recipes, the children have increased their math skills, and also have had the fun of eating something that they made on their own. To reinforce their newly acquired skills, the classroom will be taking a field trip to the Children's Museum of Maine, located in Portland.

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: Washburn Head Start classroom #2 children Trinity, Haven, Asia, Dejah-Rae, Alex, Kelsie, Karen, and Logan, enjoy eating the "Merry-go-Rounds" they prepared for their snack.

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