

Coastal Kids' new Lobster Boat press release

Thanks to volunteer woodworkers from the Pine Tree Society's Kids Project, Coastal Kids Preschoolers now have a unique and fun addition to their playground. The 16 foot long ADA accessible Lobster Boat was installed recently with the help of parent and community volunteers, and is constructed of high quality composite decking material. The boat was custom-made by a dedicated group of volunteers and features a design that ensures that any child can enter and play. The authentic-looking lobster boat is sized to fit preschoolers and features a curved bow and a cabin. It has an open stern and the floor is flush with the ground, so it is fully wheelchair accessible. With plenty of space and two steering wheels, the boat can accommodate several children all playing together. It was made to universal design standards, exceeding the ADA standards for playground equipment.

According to Priscilla Congdon, Director of CKP, many of Coastal Kids' students come from fishing families, and the lobster boat is a familiar and important part of their lives and of our community. "By selecting the lobster boat as our latest playground addition," Congdon said, "we wanted to foster a sense of belonging to the community as well as to provide a piece that would benefit children of all abilities."

Congdon looked to The Kids' Project to construct the boat, knowing that they had built similar crafts for other schools. "Schools are seeing the need to make their playground an accessible place for all students", said Jeremy Lucas, director of The Kids' Project. "For children with disabilities, accessing the playground is a challenge and sometimes impossible. The equipment our volunteers construct can accommodate children in wheelchairs or who have other disabilities and will support the play, socialization, learning and creativity of all children."

The boat is the result of a grant received by the preschool from the Elizabeth Ann Leach Charitable Trust.

Coastal Kids Preschool, located on Jackie's Trail in Damariscotta, has been serving area children within an inclusive setting for 18 years. One third slots are reserved for children with special needs. CKP is now accepting registrations for its fall and summer camp programs for children ages 2 through 7. More information is available online at www.coastalkidsme.com or call 563-5335 to arrange a tour of the facility.