

Press release:

COASTAL KIDS PRESCHOOL GETS LOW-COST LOAN TO FUND EXPANSION

Coastal Kids Preschool (CKP) received a long-awaited low-cost loan from USDA Rural Development which, along with favorable loans from Bath Savings Institution and the Genesis Fund, completed the financing of the preschool expansion. Students and teachers are settling into their newly expanded and beautifully designed space. Having survived for so long in very cramped quarters, the big new classrooms, and ample shelf space for books and materials, kitchen space, office space and so much more is an absolute luxury.

The preschool will now be able to accommodate 52 daily slots for students, both typical and non-typical. CKP has been serving Lincoln County since 1995. It is the largest preschool program in the county serving both typical and non-typical children regardless of income level. In addition to basic preschool-level educational and developmental activities, there also is physical therapy, occupational and speech therapy, psychological evaluation and autism services, all provided on site, at the school. The school's objective is to help each child reach his or her full potential and be prepared for a successful school experience.

A recent study by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and the Maine Development Foundation found that for every dollar invested in early childhood education produces a dividend of up to \$16 dollars in economic benefit. All of the funders for this expansion project understand the benefit of their investment in CKP and for the community at large.

Coastal Kids has limited openings in its current program for ages 2-5 years. The program offers a morning preschool curriculum with expanded childcare hours from 7 AM until 5PM. There are also openings in the new afterschool program for kindergarten and first grade students. This program offers activities, stories, arts and crafts, and snack, with flexible enrollment options of one to five afternoons per week. Coastal Kids is now taking applications for the Fall 2012 program and for its summer camp program for ages 2-7 years. Please call 563-5335 for more information and to schedule a tour of the facilities. Information is also available on the school's website, www.coastalkidsme.com.

Cutline:

Pictured in the photograph above, are the key participants in the funding of the expansion. They are, left to right, Michael Jenkins, Area Specialist, USDA Rural Development; Liza Fleming-Ives, Genesis Community Loan Fund; Priscilla Congdon, Director of the school; Jennifer Meade, CKP Secretary; Martha Lynch, President, Board of Directors; Kathleen Flory, Advisory Board, and John Marsh, Jr. , Bath Savings Institution.