

Press release:

Coastal Kids Holds Weeklong Celebration

Coastal Kids Preschool celebrated *The Week of the Young Child* recently by holding special events each day. The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

According to Coastal Kids' Education Director Priscilla Congdon, the purpose of *The Week of the Young Child* is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families.

NAEYC first established the *Week of the Young Child* in 1971, Congdon related, by recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. "Today we know more than ever before about the importance of children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development", she stated. "Our goal for this week at Coastal Kids was to focus on importance of Early Childhood Education and Early Intervention."

"We also wanted to celebrate the creativity and joy of our children," she added, "and have the community share in that joy as they viewed our children's creations at the Art Show that culminated our week."

Each day of this year's *Week of the Young Child* highlighted a different creative learning activity. The weeklong festivities at CKP began with an Open House on Saturday April 11th. Community, friends and families were invited to tour the school, enjoy healthy treats and participate in classroom activities.

Monday was "Music Monday" and a sing-along was held in the preschool's studio. Community member Sylvia Tavares played her guitar as all the children sang and danced to familiar tunes.

Healthy eating, exercise and the 5210 program were highlighted on "Taco Tuesday." All the classes enjoyed made their own strawberry smoothies for snack. They also had fun learning the basics of tennis from CLC YMCA tennis professional Chantalle Lavertu.

On "Work Together Wednesday", children created individual and group constructions to display in in the art show. In conjunction with Earth Day activities, the older groups used recycled materials to create their artwork, while the younger classes created group mobiles by painting branches and pinecones.

Local artist and CKP staff member Heather Greene brought in samples of her work and art materials on "Artsy Thursday", and shared with the children about the creative process. The children then experimented with different media to create group murals and individual works for the art show.

On "Family Friday," CKP students shared of all their creations with family and community members at the preschool's annual Art Show. The display stayed up throughout the

following week, and all of CKP families, and the wider communities were invited to stop in and enjoy in children's works.

The *Week of the Young Child* event was funded in part by Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network, which is funded by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, Child Care Development Block Grant.

Coastal Kids is now accepting registrations for its summer camp and fall programs for children ages 18 months-9 years. For more information, call 563-5335 or see www.coastalkidsme.org.

Cutlines:

4081: Coastal Kids Preschooler Michael Pinkham demonstrates his ability to trap a tennis ball during a tennis lesson from CLC YMCA tennis professional Chantalle Lavertu. The preschooler and his classmates learned the basics of tennis as part of their celebration for *Week of The Young Child*.

4292: Local artist and Coastal Kids' staff member Heather Greene assists Emmaline O'Donnell as the latter tries her hand at using a paintbrush and pallet knife. Greene shared her artwork with the children as part of the preschool's week long celebration for *Week of The Young Child*.

4357: Autumn Cantillo, Sam Tibbetts and Lylah Campbell add paint to a group mural completed by their class for Coastal Kids Preschool's recent Art Show. The Art Show was the culmination of the preschool's week long celebration for *Week of The Young Child*.