



The Campaign to Expand Coastal Kids Preschool

Mission of Coastal Kids Preschool: The mission of Coastal Kids Preschool is to provide a developmentally appropriate education for preschool children of all incomes and abilities.

Campaign Goal:

The goal of this project is to expand the facility at Coastal Kids Preschool to:

- A. Address the significant lack of licensed preschool/childcare slots in Lincoln County
Roughly 1,896* children in Lincoln County currently need access to preschool/childcare because both parents are in the work force. With larger premises, CKP will be able to offer 49 placement slots per day, an increase of 75 per cent. This number will include approximately 16 or 1/3 of total enrollment for children with special needs, an increase of more than 50 per cent. In addition, the expansion will make possible an extension of hours for the all-day program and add an after-school program for older students.

- B. Enhance the delivery of services to the current school population.
The school operates from a 1970s converted split-level two-bedroom ranch-style house located off Biscay Road in Damariscotta. There is a small detached "studio" space which does not have bathroom facilities. The special needs services CKP currently provides on site to its non-typical students include physical therapy, occupational and speech therapy as well as psychological evaluation and autism services all on site.

At present the staff is hampered by:

1. a lack of appropriate classroom teaching space (classrooms bisected by hallway),
2. a lack of therapy space (special needs students have one-on-one therapy in halls or classroom corners),
3. a lack of covered walkway to access indoor space for music and rainy day recreation (during inclement weather snowsuits and rain gear are required, creating time-consuming delays),
4. a lack of adequate office space (currently shared with the small kitchen which affords no privacy), and

* Coastal Enterprise Inc., "Child Care Supply and Demand"

5. a lack of storage (library is housed in the bathtub and cleaning equipment with teaching materials).

The expansion of the facilities as proposed will address both the need for expansion and the delivery of services.

Coastal Kids Preschool (CKP) is the largest preschool program (offering 28 placement slots per day) in Lincoln County licensed to provide special education services. From the beginning CKP has provided an inclusive early education setting for children aged 2 ½ to 5, regardless of abilities. Those children experiencing problems with development due to disabilities or conditions that lead to developmental delay are educated with typically developing children. Inclusion is a critical component of the program.

The results of a recently concluded Programming & Planning Study for Expansion Options indicate the proposed renovations and additions will:

- connect the new addition with the existing Studio structure and create four new spacious teaching classrooms;
- add a new handicap accessible entrance with stairs and elevator, including accessible toilets at each level;
- allow adjacent classrooms to share child sized toilets and storage/observation rooms;
- permit all classrooms to have direct access to the exterior;
- incorporate the existing residential structure by creating appropriately sized administration, staff and support space

Ongoing Goals of Coastal Kids Preschool:

- To provide a program which fosters the development of children: socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically;
- To provide activities that will promote healthy self-concept and confidence in preschool children;
- To provide a language intensive program for all children, including those with communication delays;
- To offer a setting for children with social and behavioral needs so they will learn to express themselves appropriately in a group;
- To foster emergent skills that are necessary for success in learning;

Objectives of the Campaign: Coastal Kids Preschool will accomplish the goals of the campaign using the existing site of 1.55 acres which is sufficient to meet the planned program space, playground, vehicular access, parking and required setbacks.

Programmatically, the school's objective is to help each child reach his or her full potential and be prepared for a successful school experience. The 12-person professionally trained staff has a strong foundation in early childhood development.

The student/teacher ratio under the expanded program will be 7:1 or better.

The Director of Coastal Kids is Priscilla Congdon, M.Ed in early childhood education and registered developmental therapist. She is a Level Six in the administration field,

the highest level. She also is head teacher and coordinator of the developmental therapy program. She has over 30 years of experience in early childhood education, special education and administration. She has been with CKP since its inception.

The other two primary teachers, both Level 7s in the direct care field, with over five years experience are:

Jane Gilbert, B.S. education and special education. She teaches the 3½ -5 year group

Jennifer Caron, B.S. education and special education. She teaches the 2½-3½ group.

Staff also includes teacher's aides and one-on-one aides for children with special needs.

Ongoing Objectives for Coastal Kids Preschool:

- Excellent teacher-child ratios of 1:7
- Interest centers that promote active, hands-on learning
- Theme-based curriculum
- Use of Maine's Early Learning Results
- Music program
- Pre-K readiness program
- All teachers are trained in Maine Roads to Quality (see appendix A)
- To provide scholarships to families in need

History: Coastal Kids has been serving Lincoln County since 1995. It originally was a collaborative effort of School Union 74, Child Development Services, Healthy Kids, Lincoln County Children's Services and the University of Maine's Center for Community Inclusion.

Today, Coastal Kids is a financially stable preschool that has run a self-supporting program since 1998 with approximately half of its modest budget covered through reimbursements from MaineCare and Child Development Services.

Who Comprises Coastal Kids?

The children of CKP come from all economic strata. Their families form the economic backbone of the county (see Appendix B).

Funding for the Campaign: Coastal Kids Preschool has applied for a \$735,000.00 loan from the USDA Rural Development Fund payable over (40) years and a bridge loan of \$240,000.00 through the Camden National Bank, payable over (3) years. The fund-raising goal for the campaign will be \$150,000. The Board of Directors is committed to raise \$150,000 to help offset the bridge loan and all Board members will contribute to this goal.

Appendix A

The mission of Maine Roads to Quality is to:

- Promote the quality of early care and education.
- Address the training and education needs of all early care and education professionals.
- Develop multiple ways for professionals to achieve their career goals.
- Increase linkages between training and formal education.
- Recognize and celebrate professionalism.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the career development system.
- Collaborate with and unite partners to achieve the above.

Appendix B

Coastal Kids are the children of:

- 29 Physicians, Dentists, Medical Office Workers and Hospital employees
- 25 Contractors, Plumbers, Electricians and the like
- 21 Teachers or school Employees
- 14 Fishermen
- 13 Self-employed
- 13 State and Local Government Employees
- 10 Bank Employees
- 6 Car Dealers
- 5 Artists
- 5 Retail Workers
- 5 Waitresses
- 4 Super Market Employees
- 4 YMCA employees
- 3 Bath Iron Works