



SEPTEMBER 2006

"Creating opportunities for children and families to flourish"

Ready To Learn

The Coalition for Kids Child Care provides quality care to infants through preschool, 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Our program is based on the philosophy that all children are individuals, but at the same time share certain needs. We look forward to the challenge and feel privileged to interact with young children, striving to meet their needs. The focus of our curriculum is on the "ready to learn" concept - preparing our kids for kindergarten. We believe that children need time to freely explore and discover. But it is also important to engage in directed learning from the teacher to prepare young learners for educational success.

Our newest addition to the preschool classrooms this fall will be age-appropriate computers. We recently received a grant from the Four Way Community Foundation to add technology to the current curriculum, which will result in an increase in learning opportunities for our preschool children.

We are committed to creating a safe atmosphere where children can play, learn, and laugh together.



Family Connections Promotes Parent Resources in Community

Family Connections continues to promote and to connect parents to resources in the community. The group now has a mission that will help it focus its efforts:

To be a conduit to link:

- Parents to their Community Resources
- Resource Providers to one another
- Families to Families

The Josephine County Parent Resource Guide was updated again and distributed at the Coalition for Kids 15th Anniversary Celebration at First Friday and at the Kids Care Fair. It is also available on the Coalition for Kids website (www.cfk-gp.org). The group is discussing ways to further distribute the resource guide in the community.

Gina Marie Agosta, program specialist for

Coalition for Kids, has been meeting with representatives of various family service agencies in the community to determine services provided, gaps to be filled, and ways agencies and resource providers might collaborate with one another to better meet needs. She has also been researching parenting programs in other communities in the state and around the country to determine what methods are effective.

The Family Connections group will be meeting in the next few months to set goals and discuss ways to address the third tier of its mission. They are also in the process of developing a logo that can be identified with Family Connections to help build awareness and recognition in the community.

If you are interested in participating in Family Connections, please contact Gina Marie at 479-1929 or gina4kids@uci.net.

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Education Provides Opportunity for Children to Flourish

From Don Gray, Executive Director

Many of us ask ourselves the question, “Why are there hungry and homeless children and families in our community?” The correlation between poverty and education is pretty clear from the graph below. Much of Coalition for Kids’ efforts to “Create Opportunities for Children and Families to Flourish” is aimed at helping children succeed in school with the hope of helping them to avoid a life of poverty.

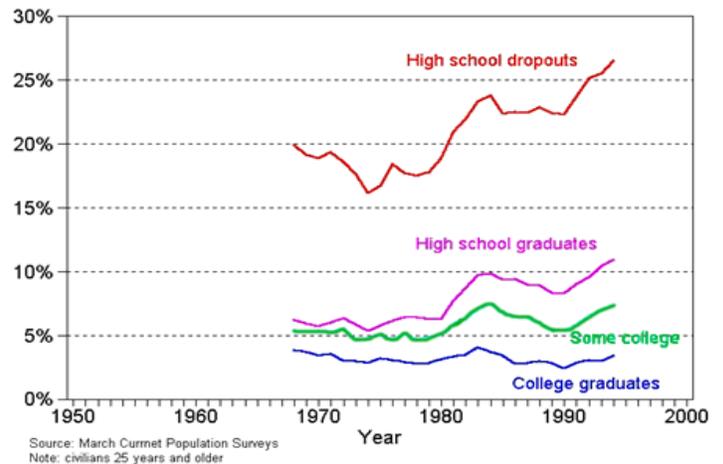
We help children to succeed in school in several ways. First, children who attend our childcare program are “ready to learn” when they enter kindergarten due to an established curriculum and by

measuring children’s progress using different dimensions of development.

Another way Coalition for Kids is involved in helping children succeed in school is through the Special Friends program. The program works with over 100 children who have been identified as having some barrier(s) to success in a school setting. A third, and newer, effort by Coalition for Kids is a teen career fair. The fair, Jobapalooza!, was held in April 2006 and we are busy planning the 2nd annual event for next spring.

We are thankful for the chance to work with so many children and families, and thankful for the community support that allows us that role.

Poverty rates by education



Generous Support from Local Grants

A review of the involvement of the foundations listed below clearly demonstrates their importance in fulfilling the mission of Coalition for Kids, and to our community as a whole. Thank you to the Trustees, Directors and staff of these foundations for the benevolent work that you do!

Grant Source	Amount	Purpose
Carpenter Foundation	\$10,000	Program Specialist position
Commission for Children & Families	\$21,530	4 infant slots in childcare
Cow Creek Foundation	\$5000	Tuition for Head Start children in CFK childcare
Fred Meyer Foundation	\$1,105	To Homeless Youth Task Force for purchase of food
Juan Young Trust	\$2,000	Special Friends program
The Four Way Foundation	\$4,000	Computers for preschool
United Way	\$24,200	Family Resource Center operations



Head Start Builds Healthy Families

According to its mission, “Head Start provides opportunities for children and parents to achieve success with dignity. We serve children 0 - 5 years of age who are low income or have a disability, and their families. Through a compassionate partnership with parents, staff, and the community, we provide early childhood education, family support, health, mental health, dental and nutrition services.” Head Start is a comprehensive federal and state funded preschool program that prepares children for success in public school.

Research shows that the costs of preschool programs like Head Start are returned several times over in reduced public expenses. The secret to Head Start’s success is the “compassionate partnership” that is developed between each parent and the Head Start staff. While the focus of the program is on the child, this partnership allows for growth on the part of the parent as well.

Southern Oregon Head Start has been operating in Jackson County since 1967 and expanded to Josephine County in 1989. Head Start serves 255 families in Josephine County and over 100 families are served here at the Family Resource Center. Morning and afternoon classes are offered Tuesday through Friday. Registration for the fall has already begun but families can always apply.

For more information, contact the main office in Josephine or Jackson County listed at the left.

Jackson Co. Main Office

1001 Beall Ln./PO Box 3697
Central Point, OR 97502
734-5150

Josephine Co. Main Office

223 SE M Street
Hamilton House Annex
Grants Pass, OR 97526
472-4851

Family Resource Center - 471-3450

223 SE M Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526

Illinois Valley - 592-3161

620 E River St., Cave Junction, OR 97523

College Heights - 479-9341

1832 Dowell Rd., Grants Pass, OR 97527

Merlin - 474-0940

222 Grange Rd., Grants Pass, OR 97526

Riverside - 472-6157

1202 SE Harvey Dr., Grants Pass, OR 97526

EHS Cave Junction - 592-3259

553 E River St., Cave Junction, OR 97523



- ArtWorks for helping with fish printing and tie dyeing at our 15th Anniversary Celebration on First Friday in August.
- Grants Pass Kiwanis for donating diapers for our infants and toddlers.
- Project Linus for donating blankets.
- Rogue Lea Estates South for donating beautiful afghans.

Be A Special Friends Volunteer

Special Friends is a program for at-risk elementary and middle school children. It has been found that an "early positive experience in school" indicates a high probability of graduating. Special Friends is helping to facilitate that positive experience. We serve over 100 children each year in 12 schools throughout Josephine County.

The program places a volunteer with a child for the school year. Special Friends is not a tutoring or mentoring program; the primary goal is to nurture a child’s self esteem as it relates to success in school. The volunteer comes into the school one time per week for 45 minutes and shares a play time with the child. The benefits to the child and the volunteer are amazing at times.

Our wish is that every child referred to the program could be placed with a caring adult. Please consider volunteering with Special Friends this school year.

Visit www.cfk-gp.org to learn more about Special Friends and to download a volunteer application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Gina by phone at 479-1929 or email at gina4kids@uci.net.

Love & Logic Parenting Classes

Love & Logic is a Parent Training Program that teaches the tools and techniques needed for today's complex world. These popular classes will help you handle those tough parenting decisions with confidence, humor, and proven results. Whether your child is a toddler or a teenager, you will find Love & Logic has something for you. These classes are consistently rated as highly effective by participants. Our next class will be starting September 19 - October 24, 2006, for six consecutive Tuesday's from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Classes are \$50 per couple and held at the Coalitions for Kids. Stop by and fill out a registration form or call 479-1929 for more information.



New on the website

- Download a volunteer application for Special Friends
- Donate using your credit card
- Links to websites recommended by the Family Connections Medical Advisory Committee

a United Way agency



**Family Resource Center
223 SE "M" Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526**

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