

# Welcome to our Preschool Family!

Being a parent is the hardest and most important job you will ever do in your life. It is a job a person is never fully prepared for, nor can accomplish entirely alone. For these reasons, **parents need support** and that's where we come in. We are a **parent education/preschool program** that offers you the opportunity to be involved in your child's early education as well as learning parenting and leadership skills for yourself.

Our supportive environment will offer you:

- genuine connections with others
- caring people who respect you just the way you are
- parent education seminars and training
- professional staff trained in Early Childhood Education

## The Parent Education Program Goals and Objectives

When you enroll your child in a Parent Cooperative preschool you are simultaneously enrolled in a continuing education course through Bates Technical College. To participate in this parent education/preschool course, a quarterly registration fee is paid to Bates Technical College. When you enroll in the Bates Parent Education/ Co-op Preschool Program you will earn college credits for your participation in the lab preschool classroom and attending parent education seminars.

### Goals

The goals of this course are to foster competent parenting and family management skills. You acquire these skills while participating in your preschool classroom and through Bates parent education seminars, discussions at parent shares/meetings, informal discussions with your Home & Family Life Instructor and from informational resources. A key part of your learning will come from practical experience as you work in your child's preschool lab.

### Objectives

Course objectives for parents are to:

- Develop realistic age-level expectations from knowledge of childhood behavior and growth
- Clarify child rearing values and attitudes to explore methods of child guidance
- Identify and apply safe and healthy practices in the home including; nutrition, First- Aid, wellness, exercise, stress management, and risk management
- Experience and understand the role of parent involvement in maintaining quality learning environments for children
- Acquire skills to interact with children using developmentally appropriate and anti-bias practices
- Access community resources, share information concerning child-rearing and family resource management
- Discuss and introduce new information on contemporary family concerns
- Develop skills in group organization and leadership
- Develop and/or increase confidence in managing the demanding role of parents in a changing society
  - Strengthen family communication and relationships.