

Head Start picnic gives students jump start on summer

By Ryan Czachorski, Staff Writer

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Hillsdale, Mich. — Students from Head Start programs around the county were given Thursday off in celebration of the end of the school year. The annual Hillsdale County Head Start picnic was held at the Community Action Agency, 55 Barnard St. About 500 people were expected to attend the festivities, said Cindy Rowe, CAA Children's Program Manager.

Rowe said about 250 families participate in Head Start around Hillsdale County, and this was their way of giving back. "It's just our way of telling our families 'thank you'," she said. "It gives them a chance to spend time with another and have fun."

Head Start has been holding its year-end picnic for several years, but Rowe said she did not know specifically how long it has been running. Games, pony rides, ice cream and food were available for the kids, while families could receive immunizations, dental checks and family pictures. The event was free for all in attendance.



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Domanick Magowan, 4, of Reading, rides a toy horse in the Hillsdale Derby, a game at the Hillsdale County Head Start Picnic Thursday.



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Willow Flores, 3, of Osseo, holds a balloon while riding a pony at Thursday's Hillsdale County Head Start Picnic. Officials expected about 500 to attend the end-of-the-year celebration.



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Jakobie Burlew, 2, of Reading, puts his hand in a bubble bucket at the Hillsdale County Head Start Picnic Thursday. The picnic featured games for kids and food for the whole family.