



Opinion > Letters

Letters

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Print Page

Cradle School continues creating success

May marked the graduation of another class of Cradle School, a free preschool for children and families in Grant County. While we would like to congratulate the children who participated and attended, we would like to publicly thank the parents and caregivers who recognize the importance of this early education opportunity and made the effort to attend with their child and help them prepare for school and later education.

Research continues to support the importance of early education and school readiness as indicators of success in high school, higher education and later as these students enter the job market. Cradle School joins with other programs offered in the community to help prepare children and parents to be invested in the educational opportunities that will be offered as their child grows.

This early education program recognizes that each child is unique and parents are their child's first and most important teacher. The class offers time for parents to meet together to learn and support each other while their children are developing skills in language, motor development and social relationships.

Cradle School, a program of Family Service Society, operates with these program objectives in mind:

- o Providing learning activities and experiences for children and families.
- o Promoting parental understanding of child development.
- o Encouraging positive parent-child relationships.
- o Encouraging a positive home-school working relationship.
- o Providing an environment for practice school readiness skills essential for positive transition to kindergarten/elementary school.

The program has been offered with the cooperation of Marion Community Schools, Mississinewa Schools, Healthy Families of Grant County and College Wesleyan Church. Weekly summer sessions are being offered for parents and their children (ages birth to five years). Games, crafts, snacks, and field trips make for a fun and educational summer. For more information, please contact Lisa Wilson, 662-9971, ext. 153, or www.famservices.com.

Thank you again to the parents and caregivers who have given their children another tool to be successful in school and in life. Congratulations graduates and here's to many more opportunities to celebrate success.

Lisa Wilson, program coordinator, Cradle School, Family Service Society Inc., Marion

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