



Preparing for kindergarten: Threshold Academy introduces coloring book to help children



By Karin Armbruster

Noland Eiler reads the Threshold Academy coloring book which he recently received. His mother, Kathy Eiler, said he has already colored the first page.

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ORLEANS TWP., Mich. -

A local elementary school is attempting to prepare children for Kindergarten with the help of a free coloring book.

Threshold Academy Principal Victoria Simon said she came up with the idea because of

evidence which shows many children are not as prepared in their math, reading and social skills as they should be when entering kindergarten.

“Everything we can do to give that child an advantage is very helpful,” Simon said.

Great Start Collaborative Director Carie O’Connor said children are indeed becoming more and more unprepared for kindergarten because of the cuts being made to pre-school programs, which hinders that child in the long run.

She said a tool like the coloring book would be beneficial.

“Any tools you can give parents is a step in the right direction,” said O’Connor.

The coloring book, which debuted this week, offers 16 pages of pictures displaying different aspects of kindergarten such as riding the bus, learning in the classroom and washing their hands after certain activities.

Sentences on the pages are written in a positive and upbeat way to help the children feel excited and comfortable about what will happen.

Simon said the book was prepared by staff and teachers, who were looking forward to sending it out to the families.

“We were excited to offer this to the children,” she added.

One student has already been able to take advantage.

“It was like a kid in a candy store,” said Kathy Eiler about the moment her son Noland received the book in the mail.

She said he had already colored the first page and was asking his older sibling what to expect.

“He’s very excited to learn more about the details of what Kindergarten will be like,” Eiler said. “He’s very excited.”

She added she believes the coloring book is an ice breaker which will help her son be more prepared and more secure once the school year starts.

Simon said she is offering the coloring book to four and five year-olds in Ionia and Montcalm Counties, no matter which school the child attends.

For more information or to receive a book, call Victoria Simon at 616-761-2296.