

Building blocks of education



BY **MARGARET HOBBS**
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School bells will be ringing for over 600 pre-K and kindergarten students next school year, according to a recent screening. Area kindergarten and pre-K teachers and assorted staff members conducted extensive screening for youngsters planning to start the Warren County education journey.

"We registered approximately 230 pre-K students and over 422 for kindergarten," said screening coordinator Melany Crothers. "This was not an intelligence test, but a way to pick up problems such as hearing, speech or vision impairments, or underdeveloped physical or leaning skills."

School nurses were on hand checking the hearing of attendees, with members of the Lions Club testing the children's vision.

The screenings were held at West Elementary for two days for each group in the school gymnasium.

Shea Thompson was busy filling out the detailed paperwork necessary to register her son, Kolton.

"He is so ready to start school," said Shea. "He is our third, so we are used to the process, and just trying to enjoy all these 'last firsts' with him."

Five-year-old Kolton was oblivious to the flurry of registration activities, with him quietly doing a coloring sheet. When asked what he was looking forward to in school, his reply was, "I can't wait to learn. I want to be a scientist so I can learn more about dinosaurs."

Every area school had teachers representing their school, and personally administered screenings and registered the students for school. Since the number of places

available for students in pre-K are limited, representatives from the Head Start program were onsite with information.

Reagan Jones, 4, who will be attending Centertown School, didn't seem to be having any problems with the screening.

"I like school. I know all my colors and I can count to 100," said Jones.

While parents filled out paperwork, children could play in a supervised area filled with building blocks, puzzles, Legos and various "busy" toys. The area was supervised by students from the Warren County High School's childcare class.

"This is a fun, but sometimes hectic time," said volunteer helper Haley Kilgore.

Crothers says if you missed registration, not to stress, as students can register at their school on the official registration day of Aug. 6.

Margaret Hobbs photos
Five-year-old Gabriella Curtis practices her tower building skills as Warren County High School childcare student Haley Kilgore supervises. Gabriella is looking forward to starting kindergarten at West Elementary.



Shea Thompson completes registration forms for her son, Kolton, who will be attending kindergarten at Dibrell Elementary.



Morrison kindergarten teacher Tisha McClure administers required questions to upcoming kindergarten student Aiden Potter. Area teachers screened over 600 students in preparation for the new school year starting in August.



Braylen West, 5, left, and Jaaryn Meeks play with games and puzzles while their parents fill out the necessary paperwork for Braylen to start school.



Reagan Jones points to the appropriate ear when he hears a signal submitted by health service director and RN Sonja Walker. Children were tested on their hearing skills as well as eye testing provided by the Lions Club.