



JUDY CENTER PLAYGROUPS ANNOUNCED – The Garrett County Judy Center now offers four playgroups for newborns to 4-year-olds. The playgroups provide young children and their parents or caregivers an opportunity to connect to other families, as well as community and school resources. The professional staff of the Judy Center playgroups utilizes developmentally appropriate activities that support active learning and promote children's progress in all developmental areas to support school readiness. Judy Center playgroups also provide parents with information regarding child development, effective parenting techniques, and successful transitioning into early care and education programs or kindergarten. "Playgroups are fun and free," said a center spokesperson. "Children participate in playtime, songs, puppets, stories, crafts, snacks, and more." Dates, times, and locations for next month's playgroups are Friday, Dec. 5, 9:45–11 a.m. at Broad Ford Elementary School; Monday, Dec. 8, 10:15–11:30 a.m. at Yough Glades Elementary School; Monday, Dec. 15, 9:45–11 a.m. at Friendsville Elementary School; and Thursday, Dec. 18, 9:45–11 a.m. at Grantsville Elementary School. "Everyone is welcome," the spokesperson said. "No registration is required. Please call the Judy Center at 301-334-4211 for more information." The Garrett County Judy Center is part of a statewide effort to promote school readiness and is operated in partnership with Garrett County Community Action Community Inc. and Garrett County Public Schools. Pictured above listening to a story read by Judy Center education coordinator Steve Knepp are Willow and her mother Ashley Sikarskie, Syan and mother Brie Shamblen, and Jeremy Friend. Pictured below making turkey hand prints with Lynda Savopoulos, Judy Center instructional coordinator, and Barbara Unger, Judy Center partnership manager, are Hudson German, Miles Elminger, Briella Poice, and Harper Pharell.