



**PLAYGROUPS TO CONTINUE AT JUDY CENTER** – The Judy Center will continue to host playgroups for children from birth to age 4 throughout July and August. The playgroups provide children and their parents or caregivers an opportunity to connect to other families as well as community and school resources, a spokesperson said. The professional staff of the Judy Center utilizes developmentally appropriate activities that support active learning and promote children's progress in all developmental areas to support school readiness. The playgroups also provide parents with information about child development, effective parenting techniques, and successfully transitioning into early care and education programs or kindergarten. Playgroups, which are free, offer playtime, songs, puppets, stories, crafts, and snacks. Playgroups will meet at the following elementary schools from 9:45 to 11 a.m.: Thursday, July 9, at Broad Ford; Monday, July 13, at Friendsville; Thursday, July 16, at Grantsville; and Thursday, July 23, at Yough Glades. All are welcome; no registration is required. The local Judy Center is part of a statewide effort to promote school readiness and is operated in partnership with Garrett Co. Public Schools and the Garrett Co. Community Action Committee. The Judy Center supports GCCAC's mission to improve the quality of life by providing services in collaboration with partners. For more information, persons may call the Judy Center at 301-334-4211. Pictured attending the Judy Center playgroup at Broad Ford Elementary School are, from left, Samantha German, Ethan Friend, Addy Sikarskie, and Willow Sikarskie.