

13th Family Fun Festival To Be Held At CARC

The Kids First Committee is planning the 13th annual Family Fun Festival as a kickoff to the Month of the Young Child, which is April. The festival will be held on Saturday, April 11, at the Community Aquatic and Recreation Complex of Garrett College from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Month of the Young Child is celebrated during April across the country by local organizations working to improve opportunities for all young children, a spokesperson said.

"The Month of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning for all young children, and to bring Garrett County together to help give these children a great start," said Barbara Unger, Garrett County Judy Center partnership manager and Kids First Committee member. "We have a great opportunity to do our part to help young children and their families, and to ensure that young children are receiving the high-quality early learning experiences that they need and deserve in order to better prepare them for life."

This year's festival is scheduled in conjunction with the Garrett County Health Fair. Local agencies and organizations will provide hands-on activities and giveaways for young children (infants to those age 8) and their families.

The Kids First Committee has sponsored the fest each



FAMILY FUN FEST PLANNED – All are invited to attend the 13th annual Family Fun Festival on Saturday, April 11, at the Community Aquatic and Recreation Complex (CARC) at Garrett College. The event will be held in conjunction with the Garrett County Health Fair. Kid-friendly, interactive booths will be open for business for all attendees. Some of last year's guests are pictured as they dive into some Play Dough fun. See story.

year, and a spokesperson said it will be a day "full of fun, games, and giveaways."

Each year hundreds of families have participated in the event, which promotes healthful, family-oriented activities that assist families in helping their children learn and succeed in school, according to Unger. Information about the various services available for young children and their families will be available, and staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Collaborators in the event are the Department of Social Services, Dove Center, Family Support Network Pre-school Partners, Garrett

College GED Program, Garrett County Early Childhood Professional Association, Garrett County Community Action (Asset Development, Service Coordination, Head Start, Early Head Start, Judy Center Partnership, Partners After School Program, and Wrap Around Child Care), Garrett County Health Department (Second Step, Dental Clinic, Early Care Programs, Health Education & Outreach, Nutrition and WIC), Landon's Library, Priority Partners, Ruth Enlow Library, and the Garrett County Board of Education.

Families are also encouraged to take advantage of the screenings and presentations, and visit the many booths at the Garrett County Health Fair.