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Photo by Scott McCloskey

Keith Miller of Wheeling spends some quality time with his son, Malachi, 5, during a day of activities at the North Park Head Start Center on Tuesday.

■ WHEELING

Fathers Spend Some Time at Head Start

By SCOTT McCLOSKEY
Staff Writer

Nearly two dozen dads, uncles and "pappies" were treated to a special lunch and other fun activities at the North Park Head Start Center's annual "Dad's Day" Tuesday.

Mary Blake, a teacher at Head Start, said typically the school will host days specifically designated for mothers or fathers once per year when they invite the parents and other family members to participate in a special day of activities, including lunch. She said the school held "Mom's Day" last month.

"It gives them a little more time with their father or grandfather. ... If their dad's are unavailable to come, they'll bring their pappy or uncle in," said

Blake.

"We had bird houses ready for them to paint and they also had two kinds of dinosaurs to put together," she added. Blake said they had a great turnout for the special family event.

Ed Minor of Wheeling said he really enjoyed spending some extra quality time with his daughter, Aryonna, as the two painted a bird house together. Minor said the teachers do a great job with the students at Head Start. "She's come a long way," he added.

One father was seen handing to a teacher a bird house that his daughter had just covered with a few heavy coats of colorful paint. He simply said with a big smile, "It might dry by next year."