

**B-H-K Child Development Board  
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Serving Children & Families  
through:  
Head Start/Preschool,  
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Child Care,  
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From: B-H-K Child Development Board

Contact: Debbie Eliason, 353-7107

Date: Dec. 10, 2001



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Pelkie preschoolers to learn about snowplow safety**

**Visit to Baraga County garage could help to prevent accidents, teacher says**

L'ANSE – The big, yellow snowplows that scour area roads in the winter can be fun to watch, but they can also be very dangerous to young children who play or build forts in snow banks along their paths.

That's why students from B-H-K Child Development Board's Pelkie Head Start Center will make an educational field trip to the Baraga County Road Commission garage at 11 a.m. Jan. 15.

"We want the children to understand that when the snowplows are coming, they can't just stop," said Debbie Eliason, preschool teacher at Pelkie. "Even though it's a big, fascinating piece of equipment, children have to stay back."

(more)

All area media are invited to attend the field trip to the garage, which is located along U.S. 41 in L'Anse, just south of the Hilltop Restaurant. Several activities are planned for the children to emphasize safety, including some that could provide good camera shots.

The children will:

- Climb into a snowplow to get a feel for its size;
- View a video about snowplow safety;
- Watch as a plow drives by the county garage.

B-H-K Executive Director Rod Liimatainen said safety matters are built into much of the instruction B-H-K provides to children. But with the Copper Country's long winters and heavy snowfall, lessons like snowplow safety are especially important, he said.

"Many children live in rural areas, and sliding down and digging caves in snowbanks is something that many of us did as children," Liimatainen said. "But it can be a very dangerous activity."

Eliason, who will be available to talk with media, said the snowplow-safety field trip is an annual event for the Pelkie Center, which provides Head Start services for about 18 children. For more information, call Eliason at 353-7107.