

The Lexmark C500n helps the Early Learning Center upgrade its image and save time and money on office document printing.

Lexmark C500n teaches the Early Learning Center a few new lessons

The Organization

The Early Learning Center offers full-time, part-time and after-school programs for 170 children, from infants to school-age students. The Center is dedicated to fostering the enhancement of childhood through a nurturing and caring environment that helps children discover, explore and learn emotionally, socially, physically and intellectually.

The Challenge

For staff at the Early Learning Center, keeping up with infants and toddlers isn't difficult at all. But, keeping up with invoices, newsletters, statements, progress reports, lunch menus, and correspondence with parents is another matter altogether.

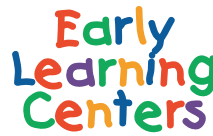
Using one small inkjet printer and a low-volume monochrome laser printer, the Early Learning Center's printing capacity was tapped out, slow and its documents lacked a professional touch.

At its full student capacity, the Center does very little marketing, relying on its current families for referrals and to retain its current customers. "We're very much focused on improving our quality of service to our children and families than adding more students," said John Martin, Director. "Technology has to help us serve our families and children better. It can't be a distraction or burden."

Part of that improved service is keeping parents informed about their child's development through quarterly progress reports. Until now, teachers completed those progress reports by hand and then photocopied them for parents, making them very difficult to read.

In its administrative office, invoice statements, payroll and other general correspondence were printed on a slow black-and-white laser printer that often struggled to keep up.

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—John Martin
Director
Early Learning Center
Grafton, Mass.
www.earlylearningcenters.org

Color documents were nearly banned since costs of inkjet cartridges made it prohibitive to create such documents to communicate with teachers and parents. Instead, the Early Learning Center opted for monochrome ones that were often printed once and copied several times to be handed out.



The Early Learning Center in Grafton, Mass. uses the Lexmark C500n for printing office documents and student progress reports.

The Solution

The Early Learning Center decided to evaluate the Lexmark C500n color laser printer to make its documents look more professional and to create some of them in color for teachers and parents. The C500n is a color laser printer that operates at up to eight pages per minute (ppm) in color and up to 31 ppm in black and white.

The C500n was installed on the company's Ethernet network and connected to four PCs in about 15 minutes.

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—John Martin

“Our staff is not very knowledgeable about technology so ease of use is a must,” said Martin. “The toner cartridges individually slide into the right place so you can't make a mistake and there are no plastic hooks in the paper trays to get stuck or break, so loading paper is really easy.”

The facility's administrative assistant immediately began printing correspondence and statements with the Early Learning Center's colorful logo using the new C500n and the results were immediately noticeable.

“Our documents look so much more professional,” said Martin. “We just didn't realize how unprofessional our other documents looked until we compared them to the ones printed on the C500n.”

This fall, the Early Learning Center is upgrading its progress reports to an online system that allows teachers to enter student information into a secure Web site. These reports, previously handwritten and copied for parents, will be printed on the C500n. Parents will be able to log onto the Web site to view more information about the progress report criteria and how they can help their children model specific activities and behaviors at home.

“We're very excited about our new progress report system,” said Martin. “The C500n color laser will add a lot to this new program and make the reports even more professional looking.”

The Early Learning Center is also planning to add color to its newsletters and print them on the C500n. In addition, the Center's administrative assistant will print statements and invoices in black and white on the C500n, speeding up the output, saving toner and reducing costs.

The Results

For the Early Learning Center, students, parents and teachers all will benefit from documents printed with crisp black text and colorful hues that make an impact. The administrative staff will gain efficiencies from a faster printer that can handle the volume of documents churned out by a busy daycare center. The Center itself will be able to present itself more professionally with documents that reflect the quality and service it provides every day.

From the Early Learning Center, the C500n gets an A+.

Lexmark C500n

