

GREAT START LAPEER COUNTY



Children Who Start Behind Often Stay Behind

FACT: Early language and literacy development is a key component of preparing children for school, yet **differences in vocabulary growth between children in low-income families and high-income families begin to appear as early as 18 months!** By age 3, the average child in a low-income household knows fewer than half as many words as a child in a high-income household.

¹Hart, B. & Risley, T.R. (1995). *Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experiences of Young American Children.*

Improving Systems!



Parents are Key!



Early Care & Education!



Preschool!

Great Start Collaborative

- A partnership of community leaders, business, charitable and faith-based organizations, parents, health, human service and governmental agencies, and educators.
- Working to strengthen the local network of supports, initiatives, and services to achieve better results for young children and families.
- Promoting community awareness and advocacy on the importance of the early childhood years.

For more information about the collaborative contact:

Linda DeTavernier

Phone: 810-664-5917 ext. 1179

Email: Ldetavernier@lapeerisd.org

Great Start Parent Coalition

- Made up of parents, grandparents, and caregivers of young children in Lapeer County.
- A 'voice' for parents throughout Lapeer County, recognizing that parents are their child's first and most important teacher.
- Strengthening the commitment of parents in their communities, on behalf of young children.
- Parents provide their advise and input to the collaborative about what is and is not working for young children and families.

For more information about the parent group contact:

Simmer Champie

Phone: 810-245-3994

Facebook: GreatStartLapeer

Email: b4k@lapeerisd.org

Great Start to Quality Resource Center

- Assists parents to recognize high quality programs.
- Assists parents searching for early care and education opportunities: Child Care and Preschool Programs.
- Provides consultation, training and professional /workforce development opportunities to early learning educators.
- Lending Library allows for parents and providers to check out learning materials (themed bins, CARES, story stretchers and educational resources).

For more information about the Resource Center call:

1-989-673-2144 ext 30414 or go to www.greatstarttoquality.org

Great Start Readiness Program

- Tuition free preschool for eligible children four years of age.
- Programs available in Almont, Imlay City, Lapeer and North Branch.
- Highly qualified teachers use Creative Curriculum to engage children in learning and to meet state objectives.
- A systematic approach to assessment directs instruction for individual student goals as well as the class as a whole.

For more information about the Great Start Readiness Program in your area, contact: Your local school district or call the B4K Info Line at B4K-FYYI (810-245-3994)

Studies have shown that high-quality early childhood programs have led to improvements in school performance, increases in graduation rates, and reductions in child abuse and juvenile delinquency.

Did you know that a child's brain grows faster from birth to age five than during any other time in their life!

A GREAT START is important for ALL children!