



Did you know...?

Under the direction of the Office of Great Start and the Michigan Department of Education, **each county's Great Start Collaborative (GSC) invites all agencies and organizations supporting families with children prenatal to 8 years old to work together on early childhood initiatives.**

Every three years, each Great Start Collaborative creates a **Strategic Plan** that looks at the community needs and sets out goals that will make the following outcomes possible:

- Children are **born healthy**;
- Children are **healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to 3rd grade**;
- Children are **developmentally ready to succeed in school** at the time of school entry;
- Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by **reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade.**

The Great Start Parent Coalition (GSPC) is a vital part of the GSC, because it brings the parents' voice to this work. Parents members of the Parent Coalition represent it at the Great Start Collaborative and its work groups. ***Any parent of children prenatal to 12 years old is welcome to participate.***

The Great Start Collaborative-Oakland has four work groups to meet the goals of the current Strategic Plan:

Literacy work group

Are you passionate about reading and how kids learn to talk and read?

- It works on
 - **providing parents and caregivers with the knowledge and resources they need to improve the quality of language and literacy at home.**
 - providing early childhood professionals with strategies appropriate for each child's stage of development so they can have a better quality of language and literacy and each child reads proficiently by the end of third grade.
 - expanding and strengthening community partnerships to focus on improving children's language, literacy and communication.

If you want to know more about this work group, contact Rania: raniafarra@gmail.com

Social Emotional work group

If you think that emotions can be a powerful issue for families, this might interest you.

- It works on finding out **what families and children need to express feelings and communicate with each other in a healthy way.**
- It works towards identifying what services are available in Oakland county to meet those needs.

If you want to know more about this work group, contact Leah: leahmgroves3@gmail.com

Early Childhood Transitions work group

Do you have ideas about how to support the transition from PreK to Kindergarten?

- Currently focusing on the transition from pre-K to Kindergarten, this workgroup seeks to provide **early childhood professionals with a variety of strategies to support parent engagement and advocacy.**
- It hopes to provide strategies and opportunities for pre-K and Kindergarten staff to increase understanding of each grade's standards and expectations to be able to collaborate with each other better.

If you want to know more about this group, contact Michelle: mdewald@oaklandchildcare.org

Workforce Development work group

Are you business-minded and you would like to support educators in your community?

- It works on **creating ways of attracting new candidates, making sure they have access to continuous learning and support, and creating opportunities for staff to have high quality training.** This would be for careers as early childhood educators, child caregivers and home visitors.
- This groups works on finding out how staff is recruited, trained and oriented to these careers and on coordinating a process of best practices.

If you want to know more about this work group, contact Sarah: sarah.m.hardy@gmail.com

Would you like to know more about this work? Would you like to participate and bring yours and other parents' voice to these conversations?

Contact us!

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