



## Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

### Agenda

6/7/23

11:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

- I. Call to order:
- II. Welcome & Introductions:
- III. Public Comment:
- IV. June Agenda Approval:
- V. April Meeting Minutes Approval:
- VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor
- VII. New Business:
  - A. Highlight Presentation: Montcalm County Court Appointed Special Advocate
  - B. Vice Chair Nominations Open for 2023-2024
    - A. Vice Chair Currently for 2022-2023 Sue Kearney
  - C. GSRP 2023-2024 Tuition Fee Policy \*Action Needed: Cari O'Connor
  - D. 2023-2024 MCGSC Meeting Schedule Approval\*
- VIII. Old Business:
  - A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train
  - B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Cindy DeYoung
  - C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper
- IX. Committee Reports:
  - A. Executive & Communication: Jessica Higley
  - B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train
  - C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman
  - D. Parent Leadership: Monique Cooper
- X. Roundtable Updates
- XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey
- XII. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: August 2, 2023, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

\*\*Please see our website for the most updated calendar information at [www.GreatStartMontcalm.org](http://www.GreatStartMontcalm.org).

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*Early Childhood services meet high standards of quality.*

*Children prenatal to age five and their families thrive.*



## Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

### Minutes

4/5/23

11:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

**I. Call to order:**

Meeting was called to order at 11:32 am by Jessica Higley

**II. Welcome & Introductions:**

Present: Stephanie Barone, Elizabeth Buskirk, Renae Caudill, Emily Dowd, Samantha Ford, Jessica Higley, Liz Ingraham, Sue Kearney, Dena Kent, Karen Marsman, Lillie McNeil, Cari O'Connor, Jennifer Peterman, Roger Thelen, Drew Train, Mindy Train, Michelle York, Itzel Garcia Ortiz

**III. Public Comment:**

None

**IV. April Agenda Approval:**

*A motion was made by Renae Caudill and supported by Jennifer Peterman to approve the agenda of the April 5, 2023 meeting as presented, Motion was carried.*

**V. February Meeting Minutes Approval:**

*A motion was made by Renae Caudill and supported by Drew Train to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2023 meeting as presented, Motion was carried.*

**VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor**

**2022-2023 Preschool application:** 2023-24 application is live online. We have been given permission to begin enrollment for GSRP 2023-2024. Official applications will begin to flow in April 1st. Prioritization will still need to be followed and documented so having Drop Box up to date will be essential. This is a big shift from previous years. Over income may not be enrolled until over income slots have been assigned. Over income assignments will be based on your Drop Box information later. More details will be coming as they are yet to be determined. We are still required to not exceed 15% enrollment. Children with IEPs count as 0 income but will still count toward the 15% OI limits. Enrollment process may be completed with income eligible (250% poverty) based on your hold harmless (the number of slots you utilized in 2022-2023 school year), with home visiting conducted in the Fall prior to classroom start. Contact Cari directly with any questions. We have also been provided with a new income guidelines document to guide enrollment that goes up to 300% from 250%. Preschool Recruitment activities planned for Spring: Billboards, GACF ads, Social Media Campaign.

**Montcalm County's participation in Early Childhood Capitol Day** March 15th, 2023, in Lansing was a success! We met with Senator Outman & other GSC directors and Parent Liaisons to ask for Senator Outman to be a leader in Lansing around Early Childhood issues. Monique also delivered several parent letters around playgroup funding and Talking is Teaching funding issues that are impacting GSCs across the State! Follow up with Senator Outman's office confirms our voices were heard!

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**Family Fun Day & Community Baby Shower:** Mark your calendars for May 6th from 10-2 at the MACC. Lots of free goodies for families and big swag bags for new & expecting caregivers. Flyer will be coming out in April for distribution.

**Montcalm County Great Start website:** Please share in your own messaging networks. GreatStartMontcalm.org

**Continued advocacy and planning around Universal Preschool proposals:** Work is being done starting with 2023-2024 to work toward increased access. Consider this as you are planning for the next four years. The opportunity will be there to serve more four-year old's than ever before.

**ANOTHER REMINDER Kindergarten Round up Survey 2023:** It is that time of year again. Ask the principals: MCGSC is asking for your intentional support in helping every district reach an 80% return rate to collect data to support Early Childhood Initiatives that are happening throughout Montcalm County. This is a parent-led initiative, and we NEED your support at your building levels to make the data meaningful. An email went out to principals with the link and the paper copy. The ask is to include in their enrollment packet with all parents. Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/nXMbm86DT3U7vx1q6>

**Shout outs and thank you:** Sarah Miller & Kristen Jeffery for supporting K Round Up survey efforts! Billboard Campaign Supporters: United Way, Head Start, Montcalm Care Network, We Care for Kids

## **VII. New Business:**

### **A. Highlight Presentation**

**A. Maternal Infant Health Program & Welcome Baby: Jennifer Peterman**  
Power Point Attached

**B. Budget Process:** <https://mlpp.org/budget-basics/>  
This video showed 5 ways to influence the budget

## **VIII. Old Business:**

### **A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update**

Reviewed 2022 Endowment statement (attached) and DPIL report (attached) currently there is 1,300 children enrolled

**B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Elizabeth Buskirk**  
Report attached

### **C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper**

Trusted Messenger training has been updated, will be updating what I present to reflect that, continue to reach out if you are interested in having a poster made for your organization.

## **IX. Committee Reports:**

### **A. Executive & Communication: Jessica Higley**

Reviewed 32P budget and new adjustments, discussed slot allocation and new classroom in Howard City

### **B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train**

Working on locking down a keynote speaker for Early Childhood Conference, this September

### **C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman**

Working on final details for community baby shower on May 6th

### **D. Parent Leadership: Monique Cooper**

Upcoming Parent Coalition meeting, April 10<sup>th</sup> will be talking about Child Attention Disorder with staff from the Seiter Center.

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## X. Roundtable Updates

- Sam Ford- Free tax appointments happening, covering Ionia, Montcalm, Gratiot, Clinton, and Eaton counties. The nonprofit relief fund closes on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Will be having a diaper trailer at We Care for Kids Family Fun Day event
- Sue Kearney- May 6<sup>th</sup> is Family Fun Day at the MACC, in need of vendors. April is Child Abuse Prevention month, putting up pinwheels throughout the county, especially at the schools. 90-degree nutrition is donating a \$1 toward We Care for Kids when customer purchase a special drink made for CAP month. IM SAFE is doing a Darkness to Light training on April 16<sup>th</sup> at Walnut Hill Elementary, highly recommend that you attend, very good training.
- Lillie McNeil- Wrapping up rebranding, quality rating system has moved to a quality recognition system. Getting families more familiar with the new rating system and supporting new program through the Start up Grant, working with 21 pre-licensed programs in Montcalm
- Monique Cooper- Week of the Young Child, been posting on Facebook, different things parents can do with their children.
- Renae Caudill- Just had a litter of labradoodle puppies
- Karen Marsman- Easter Egg Hunt April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Emily Dowd- Celebrating one year substance use disorder services in Greenville. Currently program runs 2 days in Lakeview and 1 day in Greenville
- Dena Kent- Public Health Emergency ends May 11<sup>th</sup>. WIC services will be in person. WIC clinic in Howard City and at Alpha Family Services, in Greenville. Offering free TB skin testing

## XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey

Questions on the budget video that was shared

- Thank you for advocacy for early childhood
- Good info to have

Questions for Maternal Infant Health/Welcome Baby

- Great information, love the work the programs do in the community
- Glad to know this program is available to families
- Great data shared, glad to hear the improved outcomes

Talking is Teaching Materials

- MMDHD – Contact Dena
- Corewell health- love what you are doing, we offer the reach out and read program in my office, how can we collaborate

Lunch

- 6 votes for build your own sub
- 2 votes for Anderson and Girls Brown Bag Lunch
- 1 Vote for Pizza

## XII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 1:00 pm

Next Meeting Date: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

\*\*Please see our website for the most updated calendar information at [www.GreatStartMontcalm.org](http://www.GreatStartMontcalm.org).

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## Enrollment and Fee Policy

The enrollment process begins with the joint recruitment application in Montcalm County. This application is used for families seeking programming for preschool aged children. The application does not ensure enrollment in a GSRP classroom. Age eligible children are enrolled into the program once the allocations are given to the MAISD. The state of Michigan passes a budget, this typically occurs in July and August. In the meantime, postcards and/or phone calls are sent to families, acknowledging the application has been received. Once the local school districts receive applications back from the joint recruitment process. This contact informs families that the application is with the local district and gives a timeline for future contact concerning the application.

This preschool program is a Great Start Readiness program funded through the Michigan Department of Education. This program is FREE to families who qualify based on the MDE designated income guidelines on the initial preschool application. 4-year-old children with the greatest need will receive priority in being accepted to the program. In the event of over income enrollment for children, that do not qualify based on income guidelines, see the approved sliding fee scale. Children who are 4 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>, will be given priority after all 4 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> children are enrolled then children who are 4 by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Children who are 5 years old may not be enrolled in GSRP, only 4-year-old eligible children may participate.

Based on revisions made to Public Act 60 in June 2013, any child enrolled in GSRP whose family has an income in excess of 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL) must pay tuition based on a Montcalm Area ISD district-wide common sliding fee scale.

MAISD has developed a sliding fee scale, in accordance with guidance provided by Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Any program who wishes to enroll a child above 250% of poverty must use this fee scale. The tuition will be collected by the individual program and must be used to support GSRP approved expenditures. Documentation of the tuition collected, and the expenditures made with the tuition fees must be reported in the financial reports provided to MAISD. Parents who pay tuition may not incur expenses for other portions of the program, such as meals or transportation. Late payment fees are permitted only to recoup collection costs. Exclusion for non-payment is not permitted. Parents should contact Cari O'Connor at [coconnor@maisd.com](mailto:coconnor@maisd.com) with questions regarding the sliding fee scale or their local district GSRP teacher about tuition payments. In order to comply with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements for free appropriate public education (FAPE) and to comply with state law requiring special education services to start at birth, GSRP-eligible children from over-income families who are enrolled and who also have an Individual Education Program (IEP) must not be charged tuition.

Participating in GSRP programs must ensure that at least 85% of the children enrolled live in a household that is equal to or less than 300% of the federal poverty level. Children who meet this requirement will not pay a tuition fee for GSRP.

The grant requires that second-year families must reapply. If still eligible, the child will be accepted based on the prioritization process and available space.

All children that are over 300% of the poverty level are ranked within their GSRP program by income and risk factors. GSRP programs will still be required to collect and confirm risk factors for all enrolled GSRP children based upon the approved Child Risk Factors identified in the GSRP Implementation Manual.

For ease in administering and collecting the fees, families will pay directly to the local district they are attending GSRP. Payments will be paid by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month directly to their local district. Families that choose to pay the annual tuition fee by October 1, 2023, will receive a 10% discount. A cap on the annual tuition fees Families will be responsible for will be used based on 30 weeks of GSRP programming. This cap will serve as the maximum amount any one family can pay for GSRP services. All programs to enroll children over 250% of the poverty level must use the following Proposed Sliding Fee Scale:

<b>Weekly Tuition Rates</b>	At or Below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level	301%-400% of the Federal Poverty Level or above 350% of Federal Poverty Level	Not to exceed annual cost of:
<b>Part Day Programming</b>	GSRP Eligible- No tuition	\$10/week (\$2.50/day)	\$300
<b>Full Day Programming</b>	GSRP Eligible- No tuition	\$15/week (\$3.75/day)	\$450

MCGSC Board approved:



# Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Meeting Schedule 2023-2024

**Montcalm County GSC Board Meetings** (at the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, Stanton):

Contact person: **Cari O'Connor**

- **October 4, 2023**, from 11:30-1:30pm
- **December 6, 2023**, from 11:30-1:30pm
- **February 7, 2024**, from 11:30-1:30pm
- **April 3, 2024**, from 11:30-1:30pm
- **June 5, 2024**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **August 7, 2024**, from 11:30-1:30 pm

**Montcalm County GSC Committee Meetings:**

**Executive & Communications Committee** (virtual through Zoom):

Contact person: **Cari O'Connor**

- **November 1, 2023**, from 11:30am-1:00pm
- **March 6, 2024**, from 11:30am-1:00pm
- **May 1, 2024**, from 11:30am-1:00pm
- **September 4, 2024**, from 11:30am-1:00pm

**Parent Leadership Committee - Parent Coalition Meetings** (meetings will be located at the Montcalm Area Career Center, 1550 W Sidney Rd, Sidney, dinner, and childcare provided)

Contact person: **Monique Cooper**

- **September 11, 2023**, from 5:30pm-7:00pm - Anxiety in Children
- **October 9, 2023**, from 5:30pm-7:00pm - Challenging Behaviors
- **November 13, 2023**, from 5:30pm-7:00pm - Understanding Children Emotions (Love Language)
- **December 11, 2023**, from 5:30pm-7:00pm - Holiday Celebration with Santa
- **January 8, 2024**, from 5:30pm-7:00pm – Developmental Milestones with Children; Fostering Growth
- **February 12, 2024**, from 5:30pm-7:00pm – Sibling Rivalry
- **March 11, 2024**, from 5:30pm-7:00pm - Parenting Awareness Month, Special Event for the Whole Family
- **April 8, 2024**, from 5:30pm-7:00pm – Establishing Rules and Boundaries for Your Home
- **May 13, 2024**, from 5:30pm-7:00pm – Dinner Ideas
- **June 10, 2024**, from 5:30pm-7:00pm – Summer Kick Off- Carson City Park/Splash Pad

Approved:

**Montcalm County GSC Committee Meetings:**

**Family Wellness Committee** (at the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, Stanton):

**Contact person: Monique Cooper**

- **October 4, 2023**, from 1:30-2:30pm
- **December 6, 2023**, from 1:30-2:30pm
- **February 7, 2024**, from 1:30-2:30pm
- **April 3, 2024**, from 1:30-2:30pm
- **June 5, 2024**, from 1:30-2:30pm
- **August 7, 2024**, from 1:30-2:30pm

**Early Care & Education Committee** (meetings are currently being held virtually through Zoom):

**Contact person: Mindy Train**

- **October 11, 2023**, from 9:00am-10:00am
- **December 13, 2023**, from 9:00am-10:00am
- **February 14, 2024** from 9:00am-10:00am
- **April 10, 2024**, from 9:00am-10:00am
- **June 12, 2024**, from 9:00am-10:00am
- **August 14, 2024** from 9:00am-10:00am
- **Early Childhood Conference, September 21, 2024**

**Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative  
Support Staff Contact Information**

618 W Main St, Suite C  
Stanton, MI 48888

Website: [www.greatstartmontcalm.org](http://www.greatstartmontcalm.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/greatstartmontcalmcounty](https://www.facebook.com/greatstartmontcalmcounty)

Monique Cooper  
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Cari O'Connor  
Director  
[coconnor@maisd.com](mailto:coconnor@maisd.com)





**Don't forget to REFER today for any infant or toddler you have concerns about!  
ANYONE can refer.**

**Go to: [www.1800Earlyon.org](http://www.1800Earlyon.org) or call 1-800-EarlyOn**

## **MAISD Early On LICC Report: June 7, 2023**

### **Comparison Referral Data**

	2017-18 Referrals	2018-19 Referrals	2019-20 Referrals	2020-21 Referrals	2021-22 Referrals	2022-2023 Referrals
July	16	30	35	20	28	9
August	27	40	33	16	26	38
September	24	13	25	24	30	27
October	17	24	19	32	24	19
November	12	17	12	11	34	33
December	8	17	21	18	14	20
January	15	22	35	30	32	26
February	29	35	34	23	28	23
March	26	26	25	25	38	29
April	31	34	14	31	26	28
May	17	32	10	22	24	11*
June	24	25	16	24	33	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>337</b>	

\*as of May 19, 2023

**As of May 19, 2023 Montcalm Area ISD Early On has:**

- 27 Children in Referral
- 141 Children enrolled and receiving Early On Services.
- 31 of 141 students receiving Early On are ALSO receiving special education services (Michigan Mandated Special Education MMSE).

## Professional Learning:

We look forward to April when we have Melanie Potock coming to an all day training with Early On staff regarding picky eating and nutrition.

Staff spent professional development time in March discussing and learning about evaluation tools, considering MMSE eligibility and writing quality IFSP goals.

## Playgroups:

Playgroups run through the week of May 8. We have some fun activities planned for the summer! Details and flyers will be available soon.

## School Staff Appreciation Week May 8-12:

For staff appreciation week, we contacted families to ask what they appreciate about their Early On Provider. We got fantastic feedback!! Early on Staff is doing great work. Here are some examples:

*“Our Provider has been there for us in more than a therapist or clinician type of way, but in a very supportive and encouraging kind of way. She is always open to answering any and all questions we have. Her knowledge is invaluable to us as parents, and we appreciate that she’s always willing to go the extra mile.”*

*“I appreciate how great she does with my daughter. She has been a huge help in helping my daughter grow and develop. I will be sad to not have her guidance anymore once she turns 3!”*

*“She is very intelligent and has already helped our family so much while trying to understand the needs of our little guy.”*

*“I appreciate her being understanding, and how well she treats my children. She is so down to earth! I am so happy she is here to help my children succeed!! Thank you.”*

## Social Media:

Follow us on Social Media to learn how to make a referral and get information about your child’s development.



RESOURCES:

Check us out on Social Media



Montcalm Co. Playgroup

Private group



MAISD Early On

- Need more developmental wheels, Early On pamphlets or other materials? Email Elizabeth Buskirk at [ebuskirk@maisd.com](mailto:ebuskirk@maisd.com)
- Interested in having an Early On staff member come speak to your organization? Email Cindy DeYoung at [cdeyoung@maisd.com](mailto:cdeyoung@maisd.com)

# Free Playgroup Opportunity in Montcalm Co. for Parents and Children!



Any family with children birth to four years old living in Montcalm Area Intermediate School District are welcome to attend playgroup.  
Call for registration or for more information: 616-225-6146

## Highlights

- \*Try new activities with your child that will stimulate your child's development!
- \*Learn songs and read books (receive a copy of each book to keep)!
- \*Interact with other parents and children!
- \*Learn strategies to use at home and have access to Early Childhood Professionals to ask questions.



## Morning

10:00am-11:30am

### June 20th: Sheridan Fire Station/Park

113 Evergreen St.  
Sheridan, MI

### July 18th: Curtis Park

401- 419 S 3rd St,  
Edmore, MI

### August 1st: Ensley Park

518 E Shaw St,  
Howard City, MI

## Evening

5:00pm-6:00pm

### June 22nd: Playgroup Visits the Farm

7212 Kendaville Rd.  
Lakeview, MI

### July 20th: Greenville Splash Pad

213 N Franklin St. Greenville, MI  
(Park next to museum)

### August 3rd: Veterans Memorial Park/ Dance Party

710 N State St.  
Stanton, MI

# Oportunidad gratuita de Playgroup en Montcalm Co. para padres e hijos!



Cualquier familia con niños desde el nacimiento hasta los cuatro años que viven en el Distrito Escolar Intermedio del Área de Montcalm son bienvenidos a asistir al Playgroup. Llame para registrarse o para obtener más información: 616-225-6146

## Resúmenes

- \*¡Pruebe nuevas actividades con su hijo que estimularán el desarrollo de su hijo!
- \*¡Aprende canciones y lee libros (recibe una copia de cada libro para guardar)!
- \*¡Interactúe con otros padres e hijos!
- \*Aprenda estrategias para usar en casa y tenga acceso a profesionales de la primera infancia para hacer preguntas.



## Mañana

10:00am-11:30am

**20 de junio: Sheridan Fire Station/Park**

113 Evergreen St.  
Sheridan, MI

**18 de julio: Parque Curtis**

401- 419 S 3rd St,  
Edmore, MI

**1 de agosto: Parque Ensley**

518 E Shaw St,  
Howard City, MI

## Noche

5:00pm-6:00pm

**22 de junio: Playgroup visita la granja**

7212 Kendaville Rd.  
Lakeview, MI

**20 de julio: Greenville Splash Pad**

213 N Franklin St. Greenville, MI  
(Park next to museum)

**3 de agosto: Veterans Memorial Park / Fiesta de baile**

710 N State St.  
Stanton, MI