

2025

Kindergarten Round-Up Survey Results



Montcalm County

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2025 Kindergarten Round-Up Survey Results

Contents

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	3
County Wide Data Summary	4
Carson City – Crystal Area Schools	6
Central Montcalm Public Schools	8
Greenville Area Schools	10
Lakeview Community Schools	12
Montabella Community Schools	14
Tri County Area Schools	16
Vestaburg Community Schools	18
2025 Kindergarten Screening Parent Survey	20
2025 Spotlight on Montcalm County	22
MCGSC Status of Young Children 2025	23
MCGSC 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule	24
Let’s Talk About Kindergarten	25

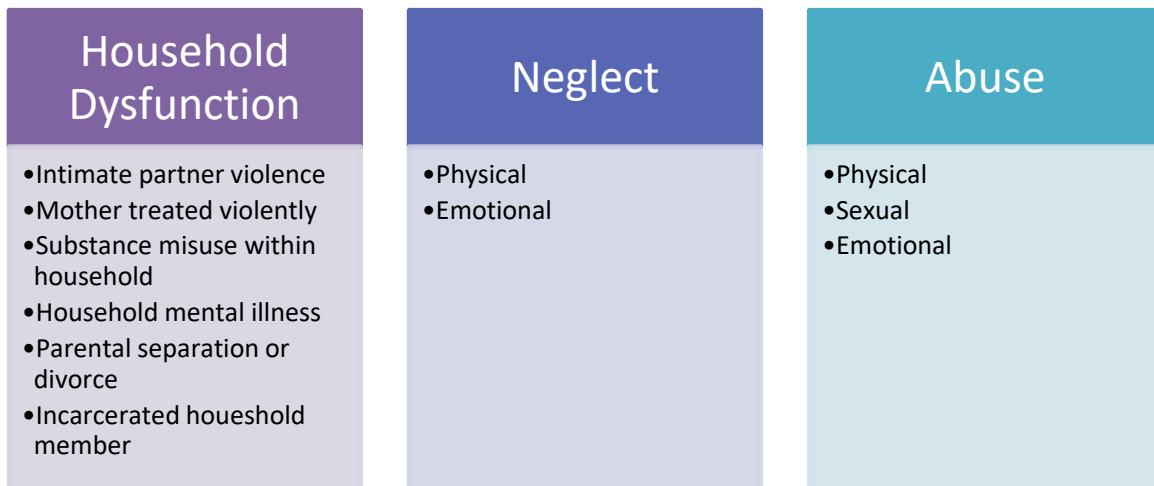
The Great Start Collaborative of Montcalm County

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www.GreatStartMontcalm.org

Trauma Informed Community: Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events, including abuse and neglect. They may also include household dysfunction such as witnessing domestic violence or growing up with family members who have substance use disorders. ACEs are strongly related to the development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems throughout a person's lifespan, including those associated with substance misuse.



Data was collected at kindergarten round-up from parents completing the 2025 Kindergarten Round-Up Survey.

Questions from the survey that would indicate ACEs for the kids entering kindergarten are as follows:

- 35% of respondents surveyed reported their child is living with a parent or guardian who was divorced or separated.
- 35% of respondents surveyed reported that they have accessed community support to help provide basic needs for their family.
- 1% of parents reported that their children have witnessed a family member with a drug/alcohol problem.
- 1% of parents reported that their children have witnessed violence in the home.
- 25% of children have experienced a parent that has been depressed.

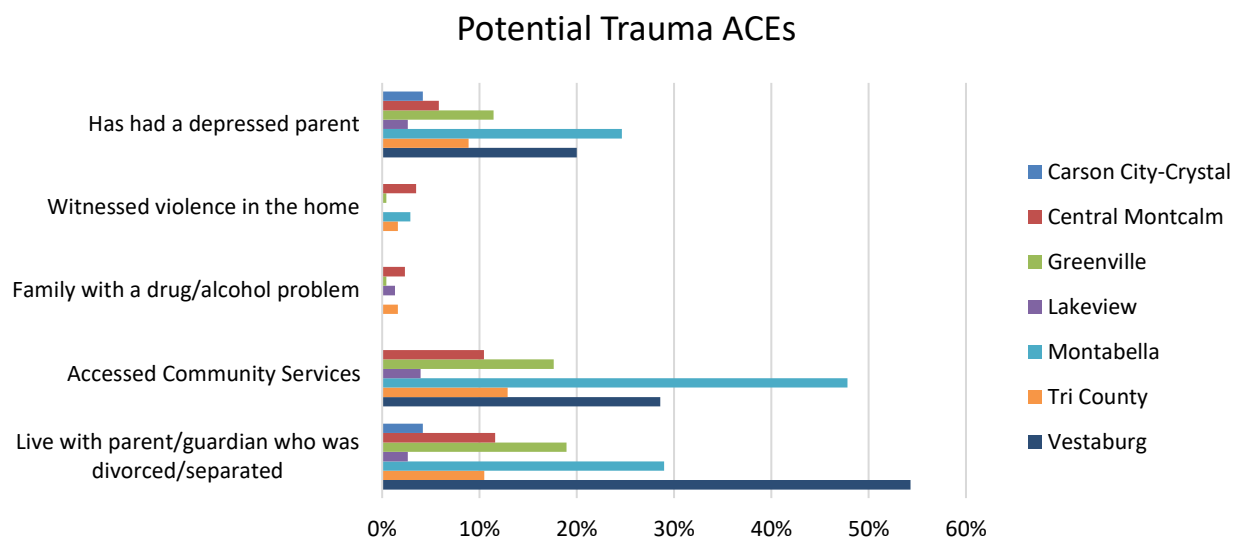


Table indicates Trauma; Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as reported by parents in the 2024 kindergarten round-up survey.

“Children’s exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences is the greatest unaddressed public health threat of our time.” – Robert W. Block

County Wide Data Summary

The Family Coalition of the Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative conducted a survey with parents attending kindergarten registration activities in our seven districts within the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District. This is the **eleventh year** that Montcalm County has conducted this survey. The purpose was to identify strengths and concerns in the areas of health, early care and education, social-emotional development, basic physical needs, and family support. The following data are the results from the 2025 survey. Parents completed a questionnaire consisting of 30 questions as an optional part of the kindergarten registration process. Of the seven participating districts within the Montcalm Area ISD, there were 624 children that registered for Kindergarten prior to September 1st, of those 309 parents or 50% completed the survey. This survey provides a snapshot of data points that guide Early Childhood system building initiatives in Montcalm County.

Health

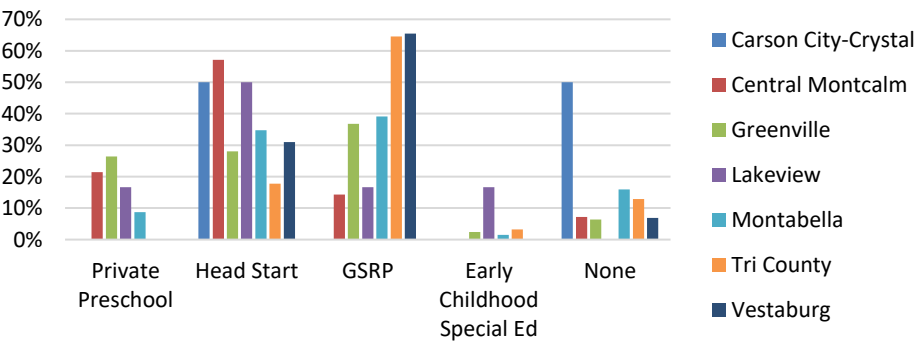
Quality healthcare improves a child’s learning abilities; a child can focus better when he or she is healthy. This year’s survey revealed the following information:

- 98% reported having some type of health insurance,
- 45% of them have government sponsored insurance,
- 51% have private insurance,
- 1% reported having Military insurance,
- None of the respondents reported **not** having a doctor,
- 1% of kindergarteners have never been to the dentist,
- 9% of homes where the child resides have at least one person who smoked and/or vaped,
- 16% report that their child takes a prescription medication.

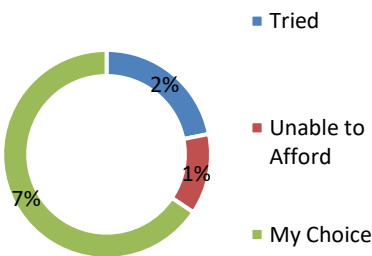
Early Care and Education

Education of a child begins at birth not at age 4 or 5; research tells us having quality childcare and educational experiences are vital. 46% of children are reported to have been in childcare during their first five years of life due to parent employment. Families reported overwhelming satisfaction with their childcare providers. Reading is a priority for parents in Montcalm County with 96% of parents reporting they read to their child at least 1-3 times or more per week! 90% of parents surveyed reported that their children attended some type of preschool programming. Of those children that attended preschool 73% were enrolled in a government-sponsored program such as Head Start or the Great Start Readiness Program. 15% of Parents questioned felt that their child would need extra help with learning in kindergarten.

Types of Preschool Attended

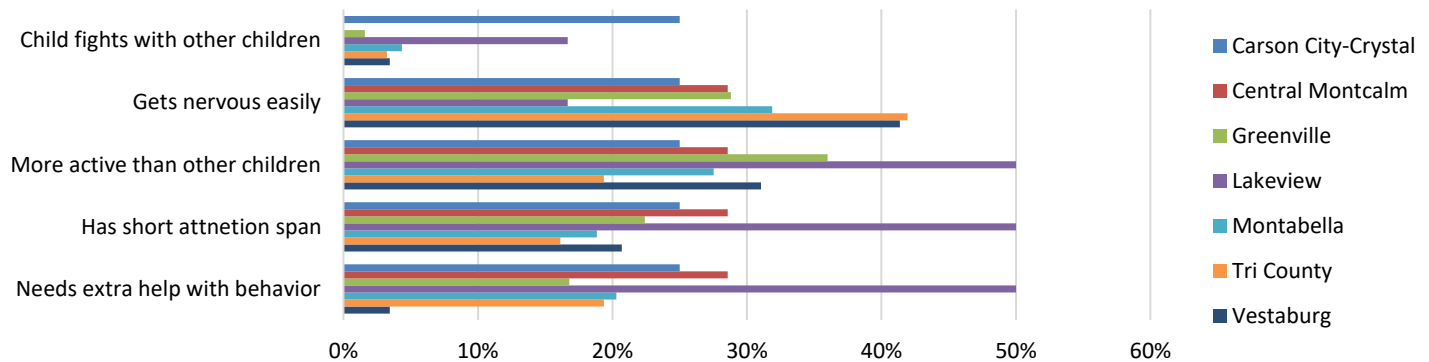


Reason for Not Attending Preschool



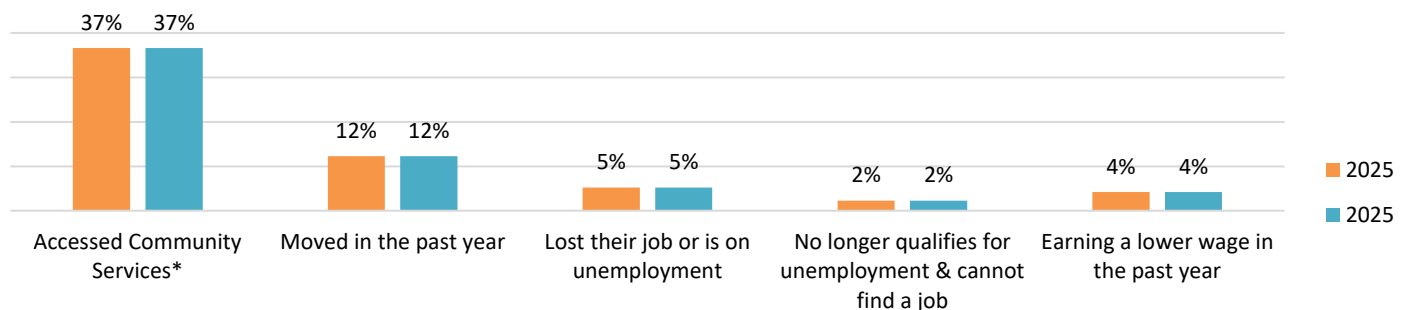
Social Emotional

Social-emotional skills give children the self-confidence they need to build loving and supportive relationships all their lives. There were several questions in this survey designed to gather information regarding children's social emotional well-being. The behaviors that were identified as being of concern were, child gets nervous easily (this relates to anxiety, up from 27% in 2019 to 33% in 2025), child is more active than others (went up from 25% in 2019 to 30% in 2025), child has a short attention span (increased from 17% in 2019 to 21% in 2025). Across the board data in areas of social emotional development have been increasing since the COVID-19 pandemic.



Basic Needs

Providing basic needs continues to be a struggle as Montcalm County has 54% of families identified as Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE). 2% of families report being on unemployment (approximately 16 households), 5% of families were unemployed. 4% of families report that one member is earning a lower wage within the past year.



*Potential Trauma ACEs

Family Support

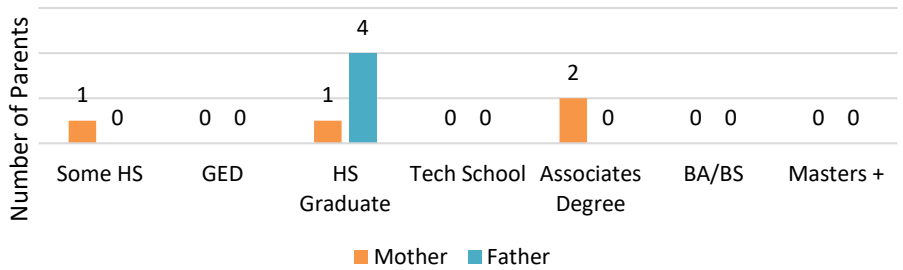
Families in Montcalm County indicated that they could find information about how to get their children ready for kindergarten. 64% of respondents participated in some sort of early intervention program such as: Early Head Start, Early On, Playgroups, Library Programs, Public Health Nurses, or Infant Mental Health Services prior to kindergarten. 11% participated in some type of parenting classes or support group; 30% of parents actively use the Montcalm County Great Start website; 4% of parents participated in Family Coalition; 59% of the children received free books from the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library; and 7% of children participated in the Connections Program.



Carson City - Crystal Area Schools: 48 children registered for kindergarten; 4 parents (8%) completed the survey.

Parent Education

75% of mothers and 100% of fathers had a GED or higher. There was no reporting of parents that had some high school but had not completed high school.



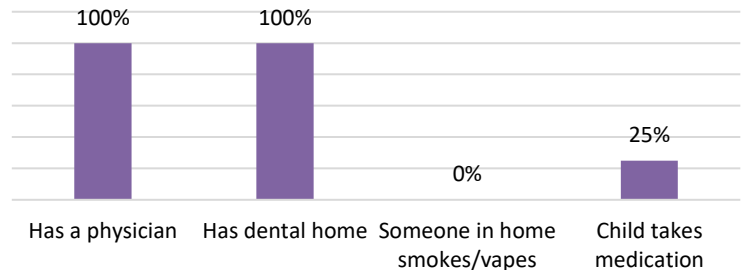
Health

50% had some type of government-funded insurance.

25% of respondents reported of children were taking a prescription medication.

None of the respondents indicated that at least one person smoked and/or vaped in the home.

Health Related Responses



Early Care and Education

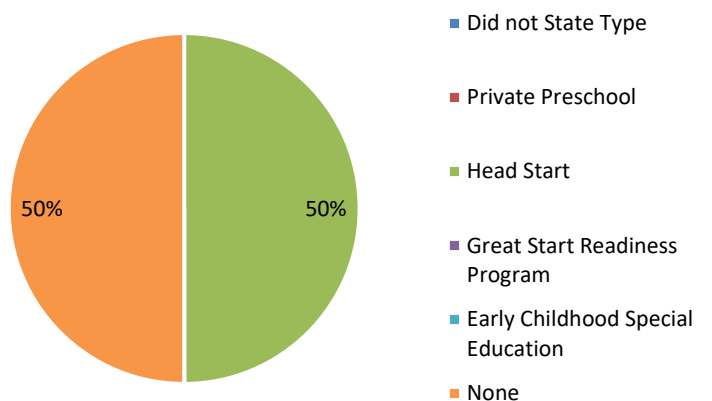
75% of respondents reported that they needed childcare within the first 5 years.

25% reported that their child would need extra help in kindergarten.

75% read to their children 1-3 times per week or more.

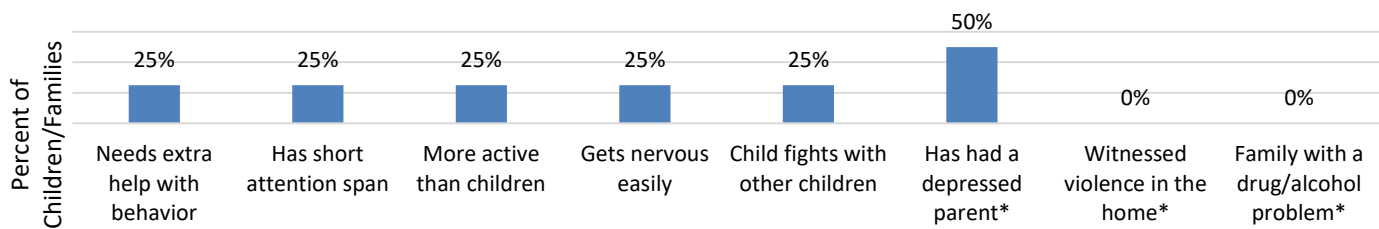
100% of families used daily activities to engage their child's learning at home (cooking, laundry, Talking is Teaching activities).

Preschool Experience



Social Emotional

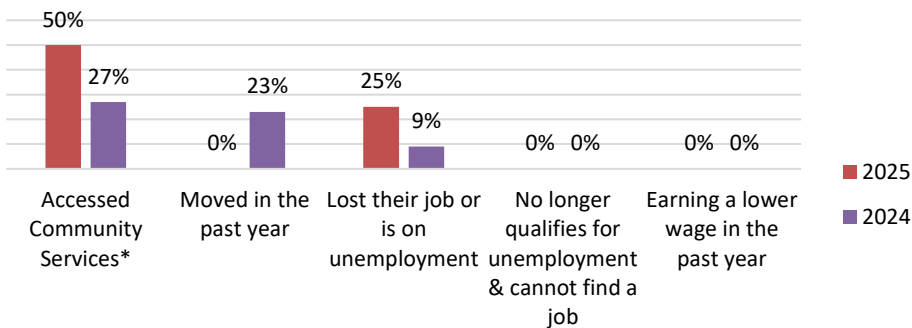
Social Emotional Concerns



*Potential Trauma ACEs

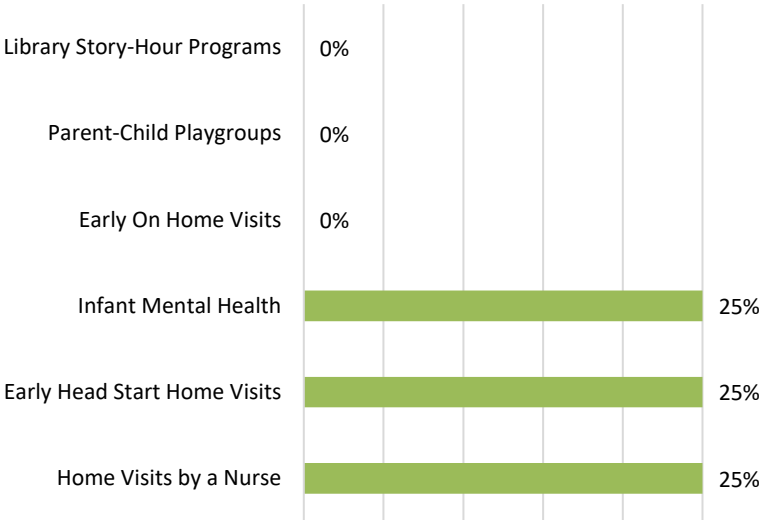
Basic Needs

50% of respondents have used a community resource to assist in providing their children with basic needs. 25% of the families reported that at least one parent lost their job or is unemployed.



*Potential Trauma ACEs

Family Support



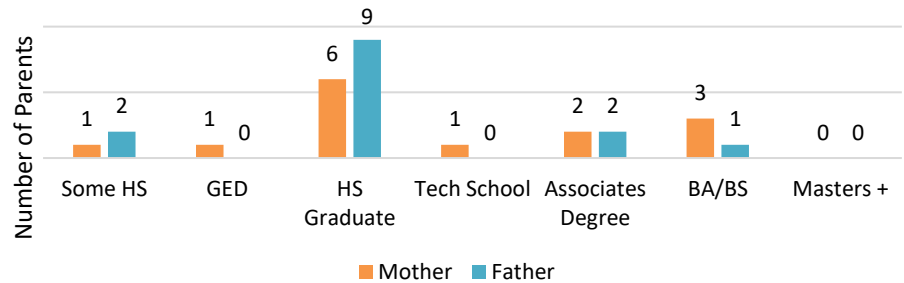
- 75% of the families engaged in at least one family support program prior to their child attending preschool.
- 25% of families have visited the Great Start Montcalm website for early childhood information and resources.
- 25% of the families reported using child or family counseling services.
- None of the families reported their children’s participation in the Connections Program.
- 100% of the families received free books from the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library!
- None of the families reported their participation in the Great Start Montcalm Family Coalition.



Central Montcalm Public Schools: 86 children registered for kindergarten; 14 parents (16%) completed the survey.

Parent Education

93% of mothers and 86% of fathers had a GED or higher. There were 7% of mothers and 14% of fathers that had some high school but had not completed high school.



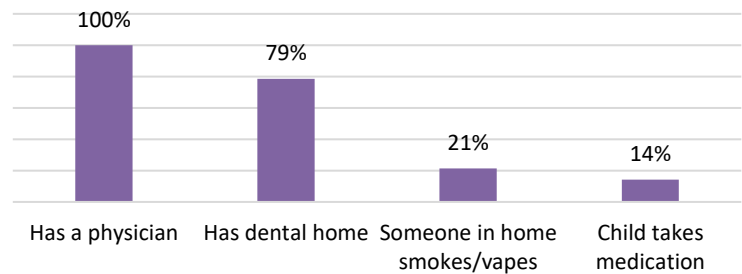
Health

71% had some type of government-funded insurance. 14% of respondents reported that their child takes a prescription medication.

21% of the respondents indicated that at least one person smoked and/or vaped in the home.

100% of respondents reported their child had a medical home.

Health Related Responses



Early Care and Education

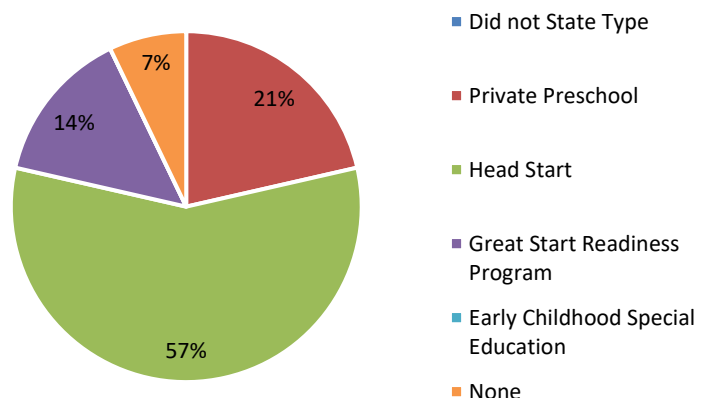
29% of respondents reported that they needed childcare within the first 5 years.

14% reported that their child would need extra help in kindergarten.

93% read to their children 1-3 times per week or more.

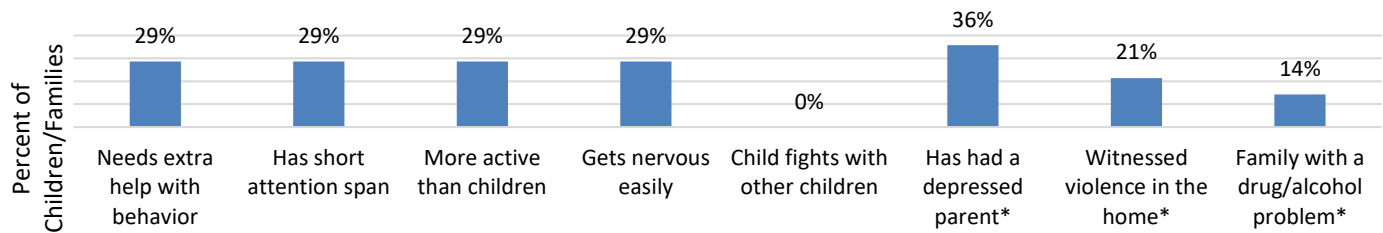
71% of families used daily activities to engage their child's learning at home (cooking, laundry, Talking is Teaching activities).

Preschool Experience



Social Emotional

Social Emotional Concerns

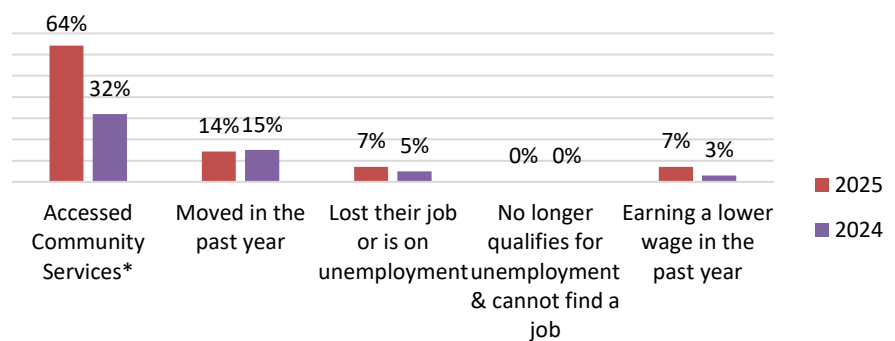


*Potential Trauma ACEs

Basic Needs

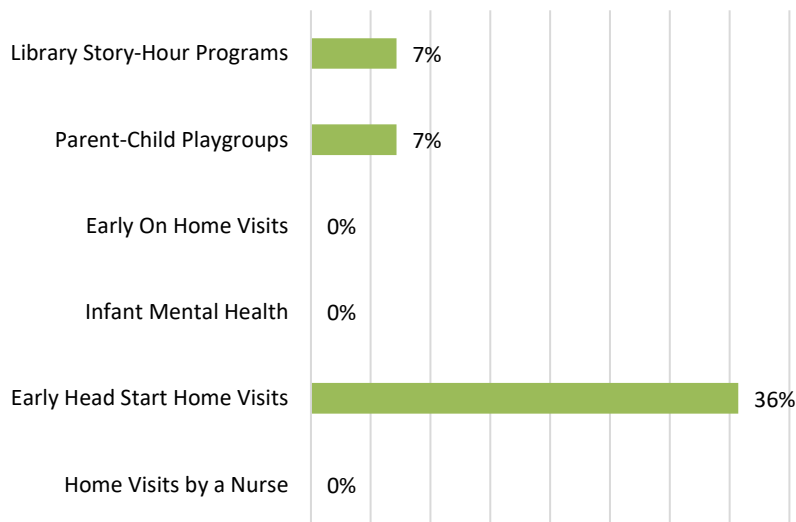
43% of respondents have used community resources to assist in providing their children with basic needs.

6% of families have at least one parent that has lost their job or is unemployed.



*Potential Trauma ACEs

Family Support



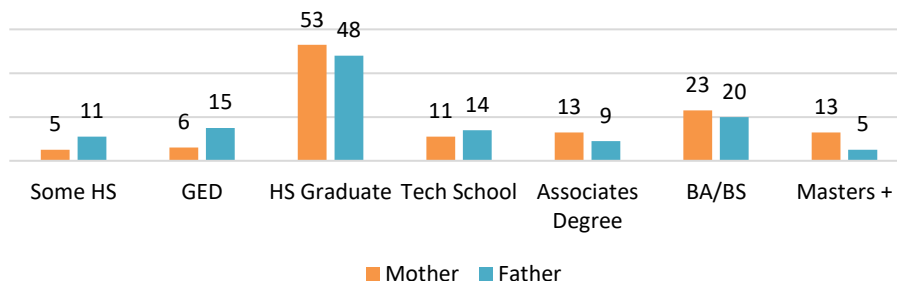
- 50% of the respondents engaged in at least one family support program prior to their child attending a preschool.
- 36% of respondents have visited the Great Start Montcalm website for early childhood information and resources.
- 7% of the families reported using child or family counseling services.
- 7% of the children participated in the Connections Program.
- 57% of the families received free books from the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library!
- 7% of the families participated in the Great Start Montcalm Family Coalition.



Greenville Public Schools: 227 children registered for kindergarten; 125 parents (55%) completed the survey.

Parent Education

95% of mothers and 89% of fathers had a GED or higher. There were 5% of mothers and 10% of fathers that had some high school but had not completed high school.



Health

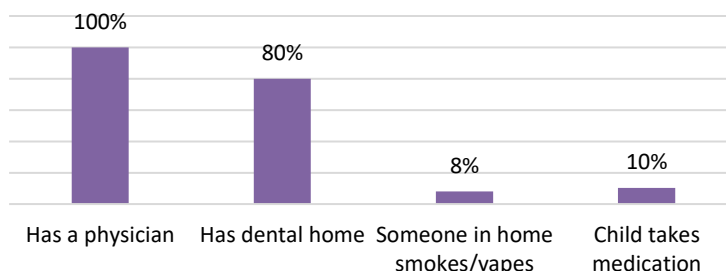
43% had some type of government-funded insurance.

10% of respondents reported that their child is taking prescription medication.

8% of the respondents indicated that at least one person smoked and/or vaped in the home.

100% of respondents reported their child had a medical home.

Health Related Responses



Early Care and Education

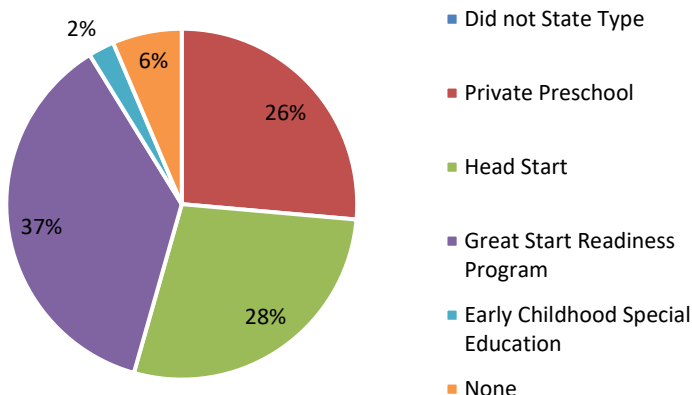
57% of respondents reported that they needed childcare within the first 5 years.

16% reported that their child would need extra help in kindergarten.

98% read to their children 1-3 times per week or more.

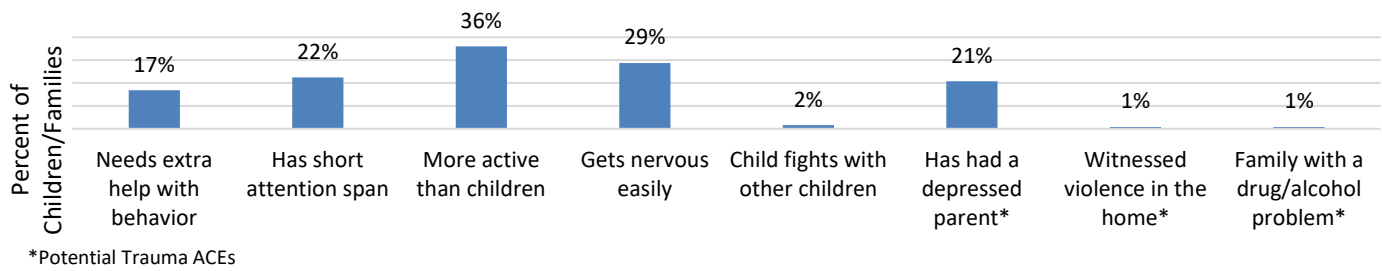
98% of families used daily activities to engage their child's learning at home (cooking, laundry, Talking is Teaching activities).

Preschool Experience



Social Emotional

Social Emotional Concerns

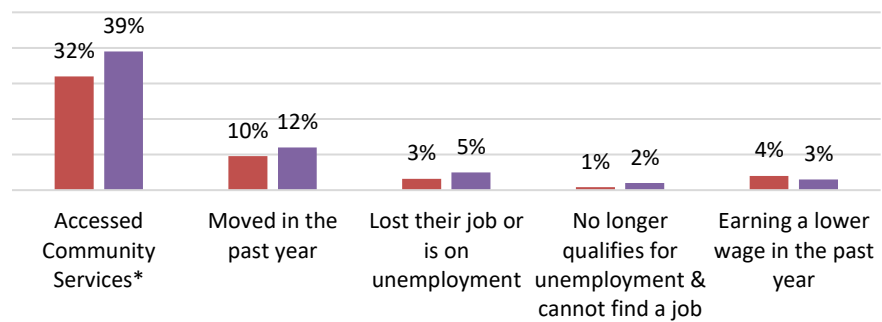


Basic Needs

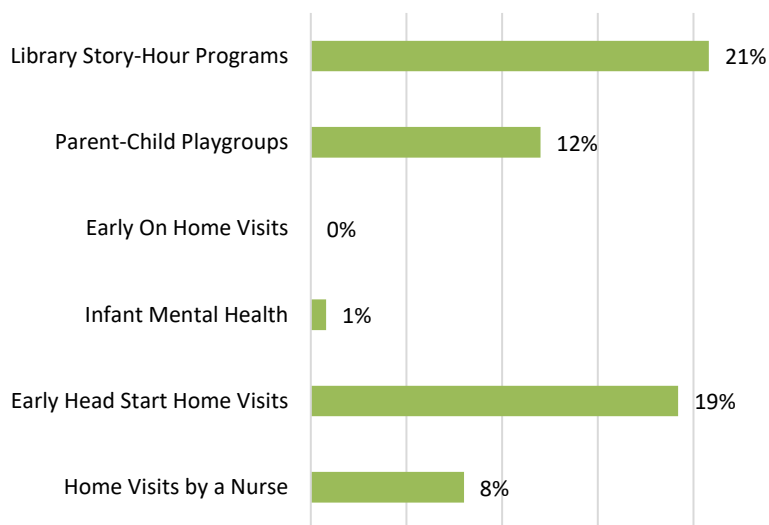
32% of respondents have used a community resource to assist in providing their children with basic needs.

3% of the families have had at least one parent that has lost their job or is unemployed.

4% of the families reported earning a lower wage in the past year.



Family Support



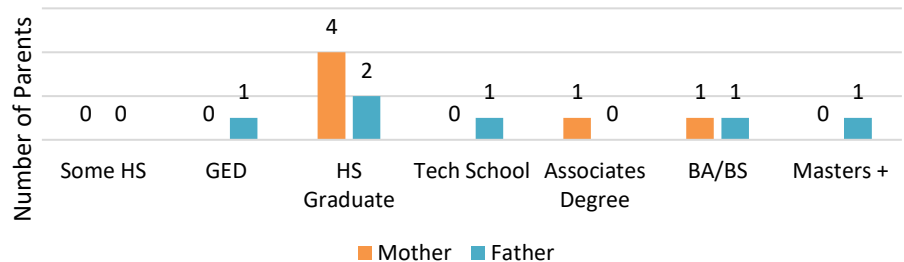
- 61% of the respondents engaged in at least one family support program prior to their child attending preschool.
- 29% of respondents have visited the Great Start Montcalm website for early childhood information and resources.
- 3% of the families reported using child or family counseling services.
- 7% of the children participated in the Connections Program.
- 65% of the families received free books from the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library!
- 3% of the families participated in the Great Start Montcalm Family Coalition.



Lakeview Community Schools: 35 children registered for kindergarten; 6 parents (57%) completed the survey.

Parent Education

100% of mothers and 100% of fathers had a GED or higher. None of the mothers and fathers had some high school or had not completed high school.



Health

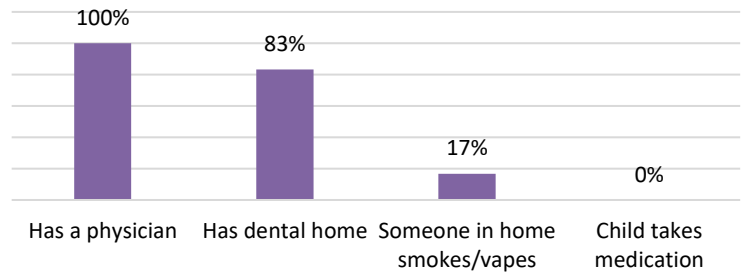
33% had some type of government funded insurance.

None of the respondents reported that their child takes a prescription medication.

17% of the respondents indicated that at least one person smoked and/or vaped in the home.

100% of respondents reported their child had a medical home.

Health Related Responses



Early Care and Education

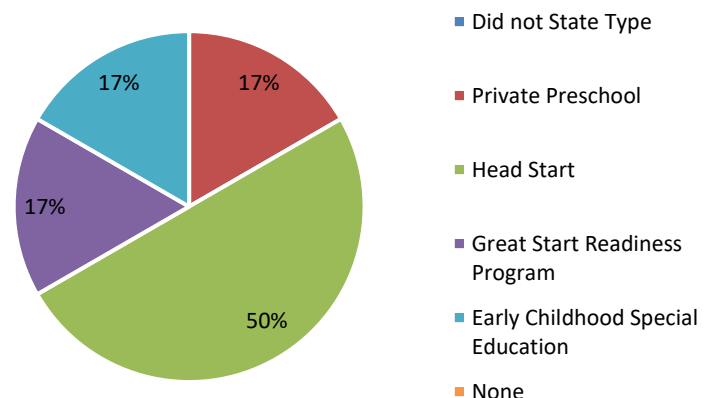
50% of respondents reported that they needed childcare within the first 5 years.

50% reported that their child would need extra help in kindergarten.

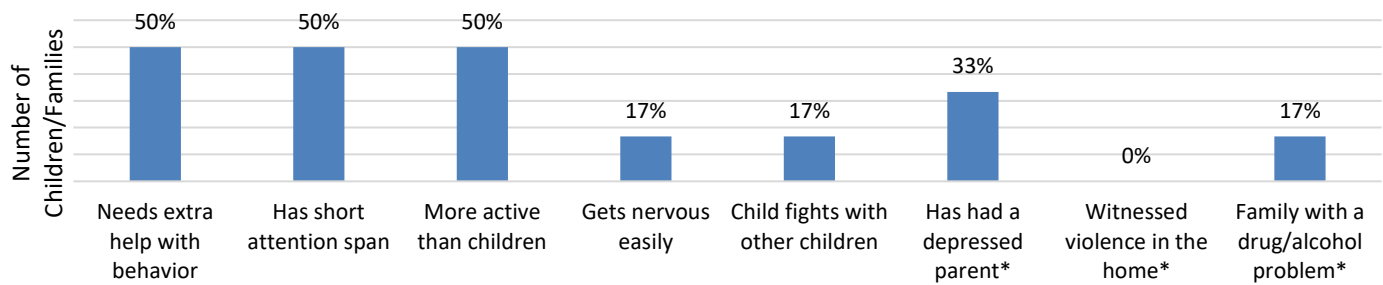
83% read to their children 1-3 times per week or more.

100% of families used daily activities to engage their child's learning at home (cooking, laundry, Talking is Teaching activities).

Preschool Experience



Social Emotional



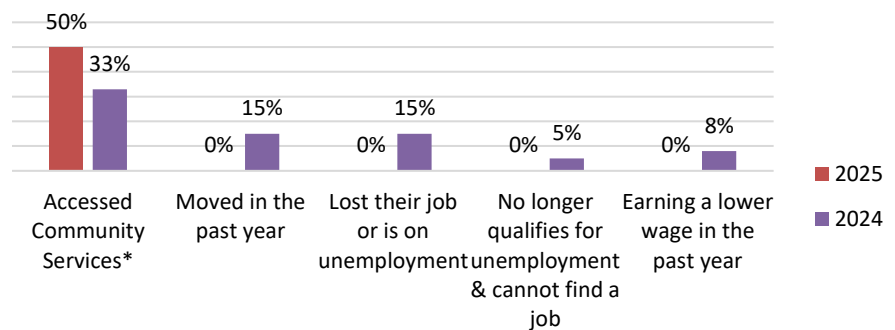
*Potential Trauma ACEs

Basic Needs

50% of respondents have used a community resource to assist in providing their children with basic needs.

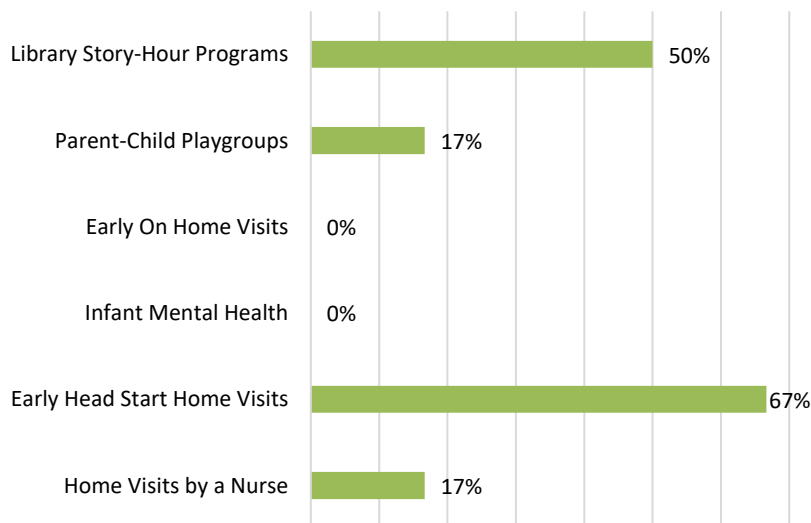
None of the respondents reported that they have at least one parent that has lost their job or is unemployed.

None of the respondents reported that they earned a lower wage in the past year.



*Potential Trauma ACEs

Family Support



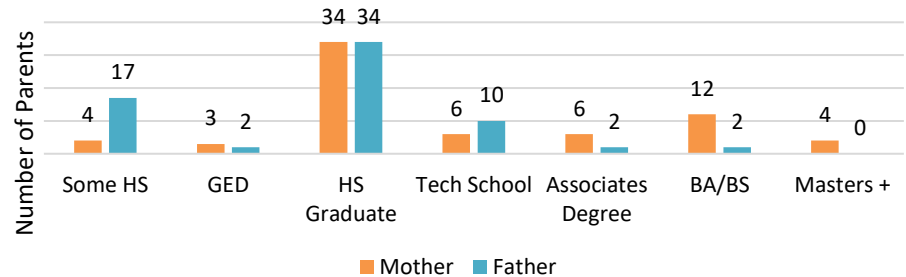
- 100% of the respondents engaged in at least one family support program prior to their child attending preschool.
- 33% of respondents have visited the Great Start Montcalm website for early childhood information and resources.
- None of the families reported using child or family counseling services
- 33% of the children participated in the Connections Program.
- 67% of the families received free books from the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library!
- None of the families participated in the Great Start Montcalm Family Coalition.



Montabella Community Schools: 69 children registered for kindergarten; 69 parents (100%) completed the survey.

Parent Education

94% of mothers and 72% of fathers had a GED or higher. There were 6% of mothers and 25% of fathers that had some high school but had not completed high school.



Health

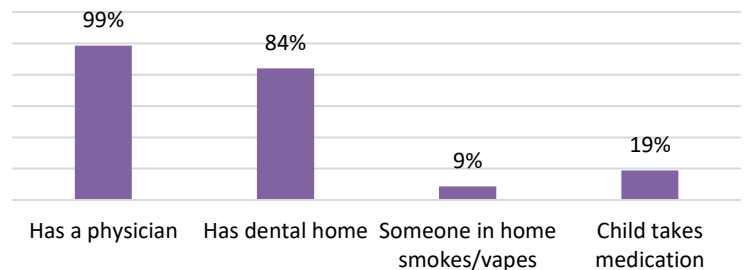
54% had some type of government-funded insurance.

19% of the respondents reported that their child is taking prescription medication.

9% of the respondents indicated that at least one person smoked and/or vaped in the home.

99% of respondents reported their child had a medical home.

Health Related Responses



Early Care and Education

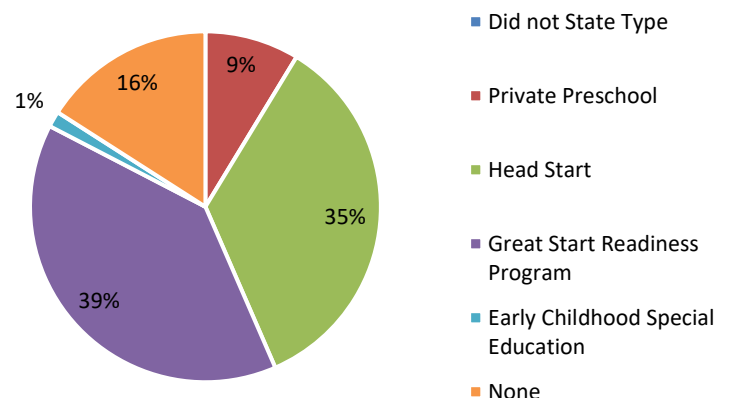
35% of respondents reported that they needed childcare within the first 5 years.

16% reported that their child would need extra help in kindergarten.

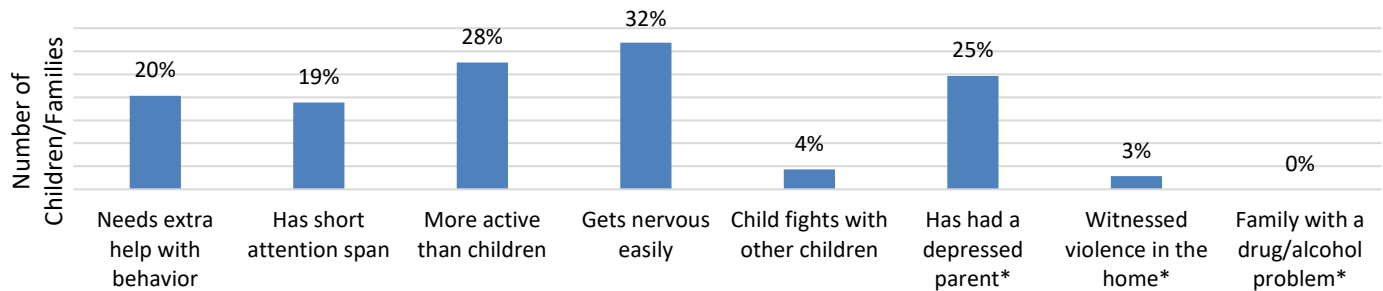
94% read to their children 1-3 times per week or more.

100% of families used daily activities to engage their child's learning at home (cooking, laundry, Talking is Teaching activities).

Preschool Experience



Social Emotional



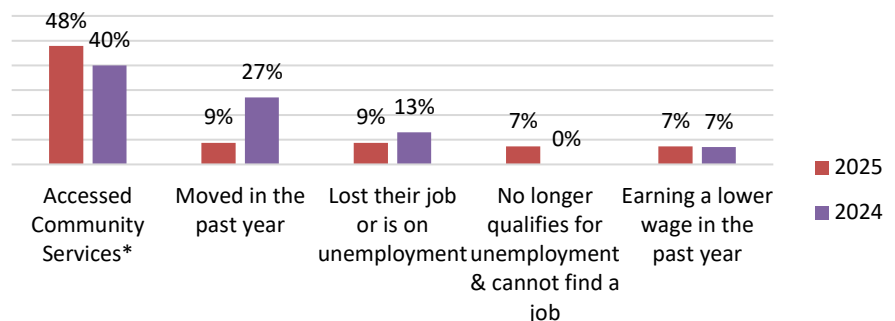
*Potential Trauma ACEs

Basic Needs

48% of respondents have used a community resource to assist in providing their children with basic needs.

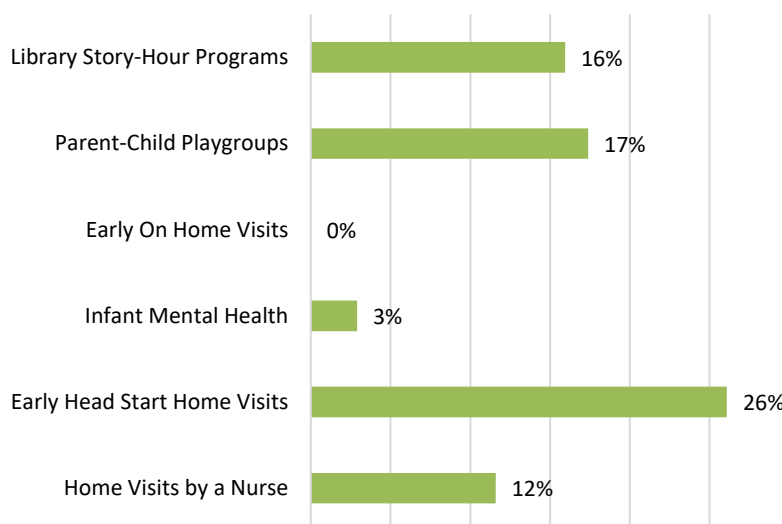
9% of the families have had at least one parent that has lost their job or is unemployed.

7% of the families reported earning a lower wage in the past year.



*Potential Trauma ACEs

Family Support



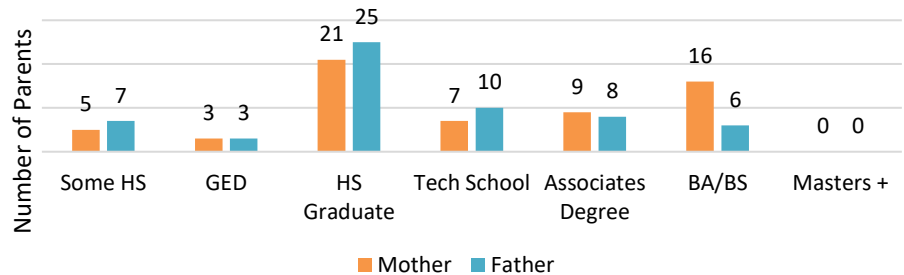
- 74% of the respondents engaged in at least one family support program prior to their child attending preschool.
- 33% of respondents have visited the Great Start Montcalm website for early childhood information and resources.
- 6% of the families reported using child or family counseling services.
- 13% of the children participated in the Connections Program.
- 62% of the families received free books from the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library!
- 6% of the families participated in the Great Start Montcalm Family Coalition.



Tri County Area Schools: 124 children registered for kindergarten; 62 parents (50%) completed the survey.

Parent Education

90% of mothers and 84% of fathers had a GED or higher. There were 8% of mothers and 11% of fathers that had some high school but had not completed high school.



Health

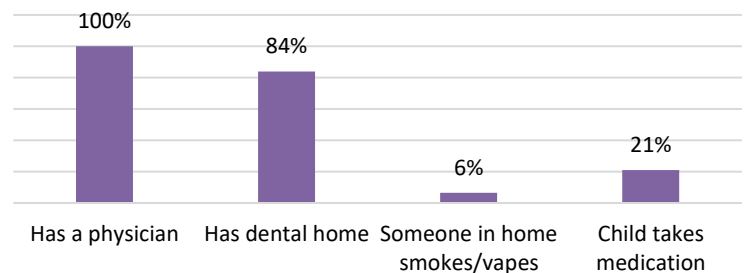
37% had some type of government-funded insurance.

21% of respondents reported that their child takes a prescription medication.

6% of the respondents indicated that at least one person smoked and/or vaped in the home.

100% of respondents reported their child had a medical home.

Health Related Responses



Early Care and Education

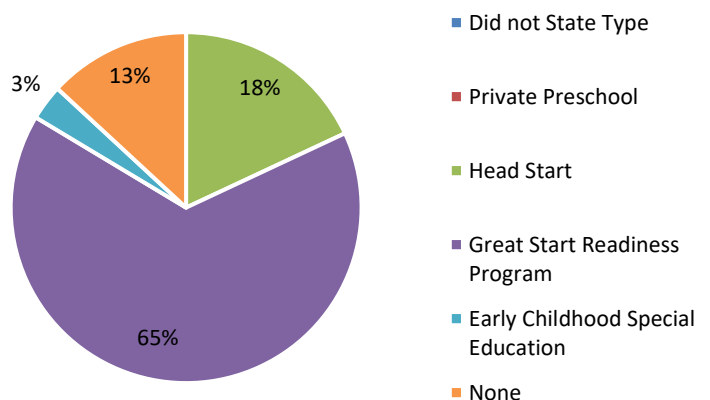
37% of respondents reported that they needed childcare within the first 5 years.

10% reported that their child would need extra help in kindergarten.

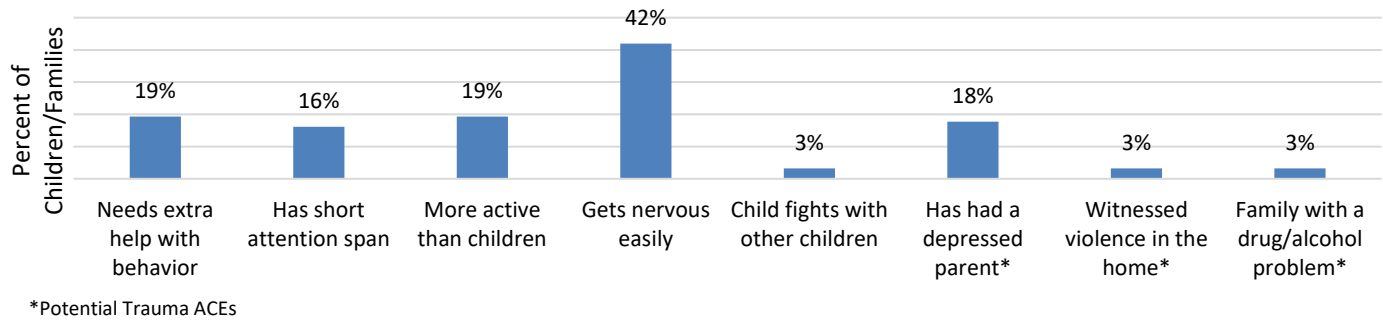
97% read to their children 1-3 times per week or more.

98% of families used daily activities to engage their child's learning at home (cooking, laundry, Talking is Teaching activities).

Preschool Experience



Social Emotional

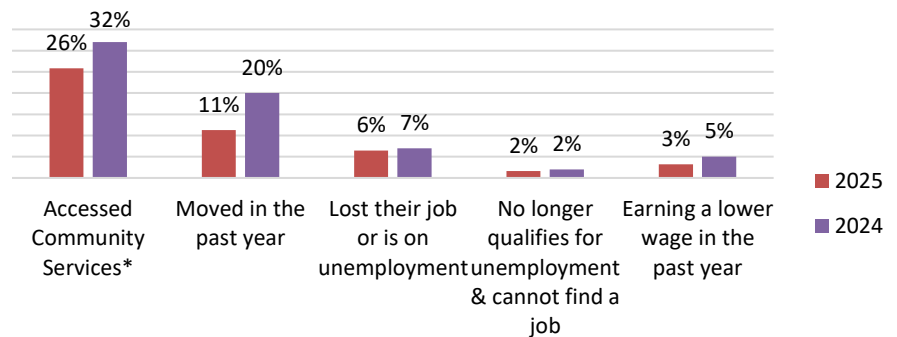


Basic Needs

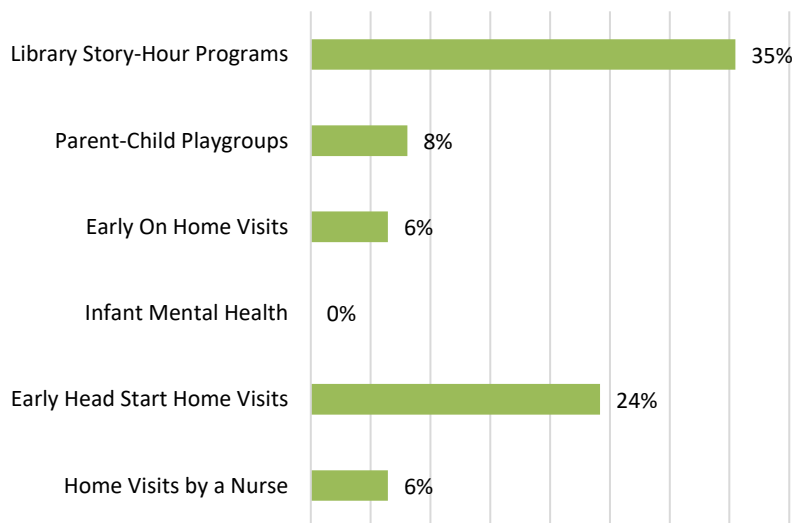
26% of respondents have used a community resource to assist in providing their children with basic needs.

6% of the families have at least one parent that has lost their job or is unemployed.

3% of the families reported earning a lower wage in the past year.



Family Support



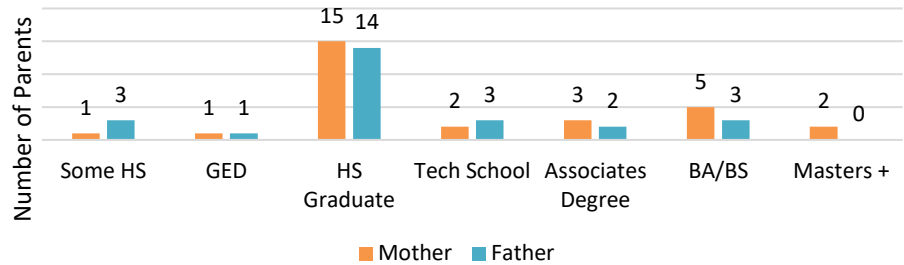
- 81% of the respondents engaged in at least one family support program prior to their child attending preschool.
- 34% of respondents have visited the Great Start Montcalm website for early childhood information and resources.
- None of the families reported using child or family counseling services.
- 2% of the children participated in the Connections Program.
- 48% of the families received free books from the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library!
- 5% of the families participated in the Great Start Montcalm Family Coalition.



Vestaburg Community Schools: 36 children registered for kindergarten; 29 parents (83%) completed the survey.

Parent Education

97% of mothers and 79% of fathers had a GED or higher. There were 3% of mothers and 10% of fathers that had some high school but had not completed high school.



Health

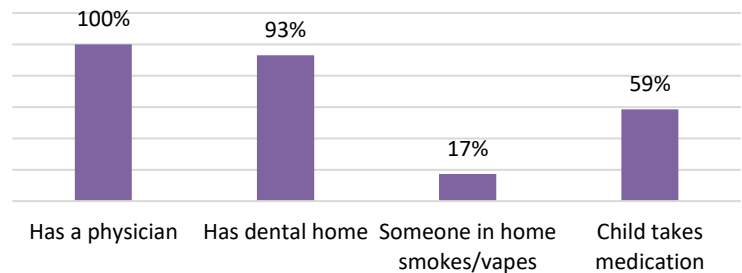
41% had some type of government-funded insurance.

59% of respondents reported that their child takes a prescription medication.

17% of the respondents indicated that at least one person smoked and/or vaped in the home.

100% of respondents reported their child had a medical home.

Health Related Responses



Early Care and Education

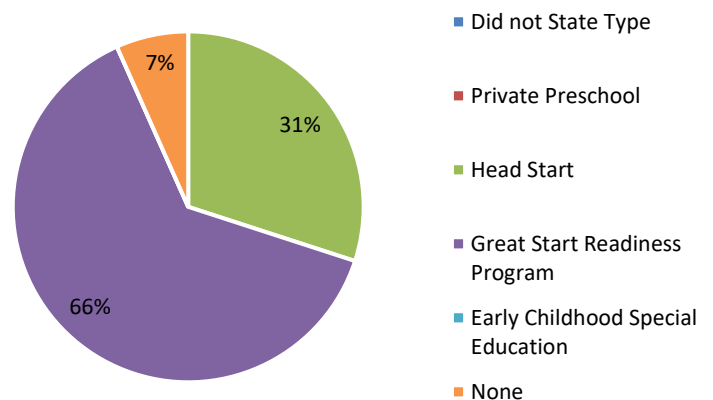
52% of respondents reported that they needed childcare within the first 5 years.

14% reported that their child would need extra help in kindergarten.

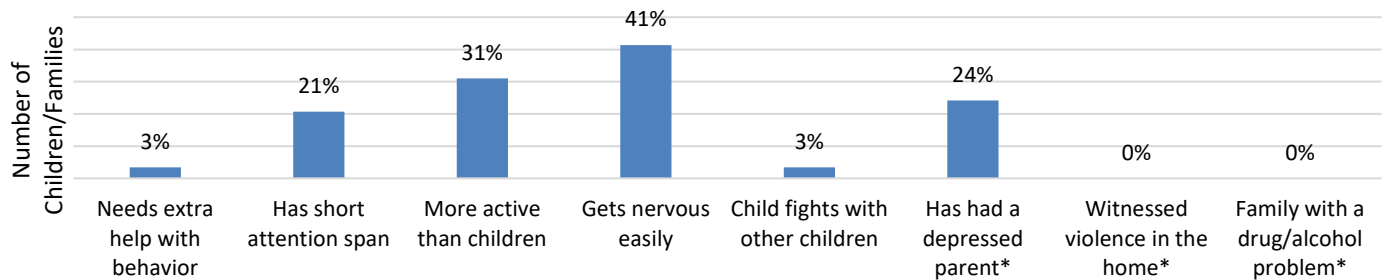
93% read to their children 1-3 times per week or more.

93% of families used daily activities to engage their child's learning at home (cooking, laundry, Talking is Teaching activities).

Preschool Experience



Social Emotional



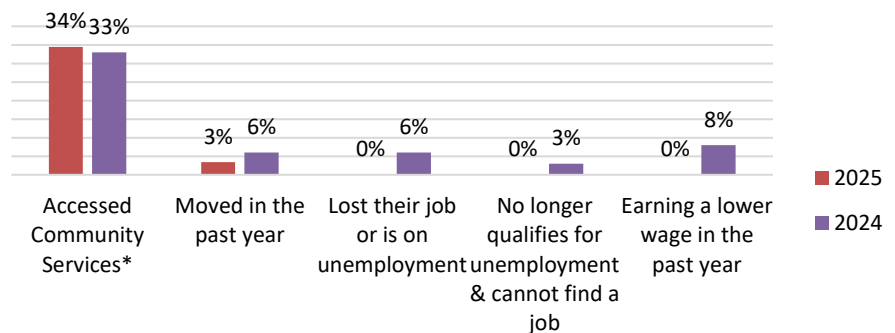
*Potential Trauma ACEs

Basic Needs

34% of respondents have used community resources to assist in providing their children with basic needs.

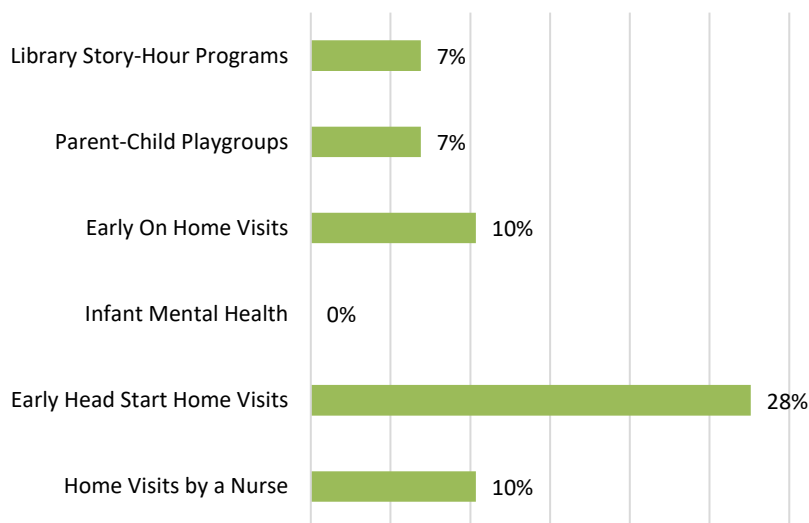
None of the respondents reported having at least one parent that has lost their job or is unemployed.

None of the respondents reported earning a lower wage in the past year.



*Potential Trauma ACEs

Family Support



- 62% of the respondents engaged in at least one family support program prior to their child attending preschool.
- 17% of respondents have visited the Great Start Montcalm website for early childhood information and resources.
- 10% of the families reported using child or family counseling services.
- 3% of the children participated in the Connections Program.
- 45% of the families received free books from the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library!
- None of the families participated in the Great Start Montcalm Family Coalition.



School District: _____ Date: _____

(For office use only) # _____

2025 Kindergarten Screening Parent Survey

The Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative (MCGSC) is a group of community members and leaders dedicated to assuring that all children are provided with a strong foundation so that they enter kindergarten eager, prepared and ready to learn. The group has several committees that focus on each of the following areas: health, early care and education, social-emotional, basic physical needs, and family support. Information will be compiled into a Status of Young Children report. We would greatly appreciate you completing this survey so we can provide current information to the community and direct our attention to the areas that YOU indicate would be of greatest benefit to you and your family. Thank you for your time.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

Child's birth date: _____ Person completing form: Mother ____ Father ____ Other ____

Parent's Education: (check the highest level obtained)

Mother: Some HS ____ GED ____ HS Graduate ____ Tech/trade school ____ 2-year degree ____ BA/BS ____ Masters/+ ____

Father: Some HS ____ GED ____ HS Graduate ____ Tech/trade school ____ 2-year degree ____ BA/BS ____ Masters/+ ____

Who does the child live with?

Biological Parents ____ Mother Only ____ Father Only ____ Joint Custody (splits time equally) ____

Mother & Stepfather ____ Mother & Significant Other ____ Father & Stepmother ____ Father & Significant Other ____

Adopted Parents ____ Foster Parents ____ Other extended family members (grandparents, aunts, etc.) ____

HEALTH:

1.	Does your child have a doctor?	Yes	No
2.	Has your child ever been to a dentist?	Yes	No
3.	Currently, what type of health insurance does your CHILD have? ____ None, no insurance ____ Private health insurance ____ Military Health Care ____ Government Sponsored (Medicaid, Healthy Kids, Molina, MI Child, Health Plan of MI, McLaren, PHP-MM Family Care)		
4.	Does anyone currently smoke and/or vape in the child's home on a regular basis?	Yes	No
5.	Does your child take any kind of <i>prescribed medications</i> now? If yes, for what?	Yes	No

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION:

6.	Did your child need childcare due to your employment anytime during their first 5 years of life? If yes, were you satisfied with the childcare arrangement that you found?	Yes	No
7.	Did your child attend a formal preschool program as a 4- or 5-year-old? Yes, he/she attended: ____ Head Start ____ Great Start Readiness Program (Jump Start, Ready 4 School, Young 4's or 5's etc.) ____ Early Childhood Special Education Program ____ A private preschool program _____ (please indicate which one) No, my child did not attend a preschool program because: ____ It was my choice, as I did not feel he/she needed that experience prior to entering kindergarten. ____ I tried to enroll him/her in _____ (name program) but it was full. ____ I was unable to afford a preschool program for him/her at this time. ____ I was not able to work out transportation		
8.	Do you think your child is going to need <i>extra help</i> with learning upon entering kindergarten?	Yes	No
9.	How often do you read to your child?	Less than 1x per week	1-3x per week
			Daily

Turn Over

10.	How often do you use your daily activities to engage your child in learning? (cooking, laundry, Talking is Teaching Activities)	Less than 1x per week	1-3x per week	Daily
11.	Was your child enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library?			Yes No

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL:

12.	Do you think your child is going to need <i>extra help</i> with their behavior in kindergarten?	Yes	No
13.	Do you think your child has a short attention span compared to other children their age?	Yes	No
14.	Do you think your child is more active than other children his/her age? (i.e. always on the go, can't sit still)	Yes	No
15.	Do you think your child gets nervous easily?	Yes	No
16.	Does your child get in fights with other children?	Yes	No
17.	Has your child experienced a parent that is depressed?	Yes	No
18.	Has your child witnessed violence in your home?	Yes	No
19.	Has your child seen a family member with a drug or alcohol problem?	Yes	No

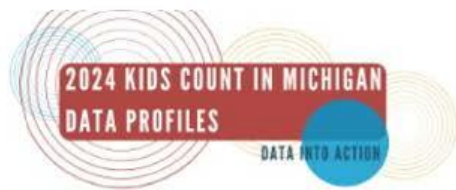
BASIC NEEDS:

20.	Have you ever accessed community service (food banks, EightCAP, DHHS, etc.) to provide necessary items for your family such as food, assistance with bills, housing, etc?	Yes	No
21.	Have you moved from one home to another in the past year?	Yes	No
22.	Currently, is there anyone in your household that has lost their job and/or is on unemployment?	Yes	No
23.	Currently, is there anyone in your household that NO LONGER qualifies for unemployment and is unable to find a job?	Yes	No
24.	Is there anyone in your household right now that has lost their job in the past year but is now working again for a significantly lower wage?	Yes	No

FAMILY SUPPORT:

25.	Were you easily able to find information about how to get your child ready for kindergarten?	Yes	No
26.	Did you ever participate in any of these early intervention programs with your child? _____ Home visits by a nurse from the health department, United Lifestyles, or home health agency. _____ Home visits by Early Head Start _____ Home visits by Infant Mental Health specialist from Community Mental Health _____ Home visits by Early On or the birth to three special education staff _____ Parent-child Playgroups thru Great Start, Early Head Start and Early On _____ Library story-hour programs _____ (Child/family) Counseling (private or from Community Mental Health) _____ Great Start Parent Coalition _____ None of the above		
27.	Have you ever visited the Great Start Collaborative website (www.GreatStartMontcalm.org) If yes , have you used the talking is teaching resources?	Yes Yes	No No
28.	Have you ever attended any type of parenting class or support group? If yes , please explain:	Yes	No
29.	Have you ever participated in the CONNECTIONS program to evaluate your child's development?	Yes	No
30.	Is there anything that would have been helpful to you, in the first 5 years, to get your child off to a Great Start? This answer will help us to guide resources for children birth – 5 years old. _____ _____ _____ _____		

Thank you for participating!



Montcalm County

[View State Profile](#)



POPULATION (2022)	AGES 0-5	AGE 0-17	AGES 18-24
Total	4,365	14,081	5,441
American Indian/Alaska Native	21	72	26
Asian	15	49	31
Black	38	108	339
Hispanic	256	885	380
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	5	1
Two or More Races	146	468	142
White	3,889	12,494	4,522

EARLY CHILDHOOD 	Ages 0-5 in Poverty 16.4% 2022 29.1% 2017	Ages 0-5 with All Parents in Labor Force 59.9% 2022 60.9% 2017	Ages 0-5 Receiving Child Care Subsidies 208 2023 137 2017	3 & 4 Year-Olds in Preschool 38.6% 2022 48.7% 2017
HEALTH & SAFETY 	Infant Mortality 3 2022 3 2017	Ages 0-18 with Health Insurance 96.5% 2021 96.3% 2017	Ages 0-18 Insured by Medicaid 49.4% 2023 48.6% 2017	Ages 1-2 Tested for Lead 29.6% 2022 37.2% 2017
EDUCATION 	Ages 0-26 in Special Education 16.7% 2023 14.9% 2017	3rd Graders Proficient in Reading 47.2% 2022 40.5% 2017	Students Graduating On Time 54.6% 2023 86.6% 2017	Students Experiencing Homelessness 525 2022 507 2017
ECONOMIC SECURITY 	Ages 0-4 Receiving WIC 54.4% 2022 54.8% 2017	K-12 Economically Disadvantaged 66.5% 2023 58.4% 2017	Ages 0-18 Receiving Cash Assistance 87 2023 81 2017	Ages 0-17 in Poverty 19.4% 2022 21.2% 2017
FAMILY & COMMUNITY 	Ages 0-19 Owed Child Support 25.1% 2023 29.3% 2017	Families with High Housing Cost Burden 22.5% 2022 27.7% 2017	Ages 5-17 Who Are Foreign-Born 0.2% 2022 0.5% 2017	Ages 0-17 in Out-of-Home Care 61 2023 88 2017



Kids Count in Michigan is a project of the Michigan League for Public Policy | www.mlpp.org | info@mlpp.org

[Download PDF](#)



OUR VISION:
Children in Montcalm County have the opportunity to be healthy, eager, and prepared to succeed in school and life.

For more information about early childhood in Montcalm County or to provide feedback regarding this data, please go to:

www.GreatStartMontcalm.org

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



For more information you can contact the MCGSC at:
(616) 225-6146

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Status of Young Children 2025

Dear Community Member,

The [Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative](http://www.GreatStartMontcalm.org) (MCGSC) is proud to support Early Childhood initiatives. We continue to drive conversations around the data that identifies the work we need to do to build a system that supports the wellbeing of all young children throughout Montcalm County. Please share our annual Status of Young Children report to grow the opportunities for conversations around the MCGSC vision. As partners in our community, we ask that you continue to advocate for young children and their families to be a priority. We know that the first five years of a child's life is a time of great opportunity! Research tells us that by age six, most of a child's brain is developed. This is a critical time for investments that stimulate brain development and build environments where young children thrive. In 2022, there were 697 births and a total of 2023 children birth to age eight living in Montcalm County. We must continue to make decisions that help families to raise healthy children prepared to succeed in school and life.

Parents and community leaders in Montcalm County who understand the vital importance of investing in young children continue to work together to implement the 2022-2025 MCGSC Strategic Plan. We invite you to join us in fighting for a **continued investment in research based, high quality early childhood supports.** Please contact us with any feedback at www.GreatStartMontcalm.org

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Members



WHAT THE DATA SHOWS US:

- In 2023, 18% of children ages birth to seventeen live in poverty. State of MI is 17%.
- 57% of students receive free or reduced school lunch assistance, a decrease from 2023 at 67%. State of MI is 50%.
- 31% of Montcalm County mothers who gave birth did not receive appropriate health care in 2022. The State of MI is 31%.
- Medicaid paid for 38% of Montcalm County births in 2022. State of MI is 39%.
- 66% of 19-to 35-month-old children in Montcalm County are up to date on their immunizations. The State average is 70%. Unfortunately, this number is trending in the wrong direction.
- 47% of children ages 0-4 participate in Women, Infants, & Children (WIC). State of MI is 42%. Data from the last five-plus years shows a decreasing enrollment trend despite being above the state average.
- In 2023, Montcalm County was lower than the state average in the number of children birth to five that were substantiated for child abuse and neglect. Montcalm County stands at a rate per 1,000 of 14, while the state average is at a rate per 1,000 of 15.8.
- 140 ages birth to two children were served through Early ON & Special Education services in 2023. This number has increased from 112 children in 2020. Children from birth to 5 years old receiving special education in Michigan and Montcalm County was at 5%.

Report Data Sources: Michigan Kids Count & MAISD EO



Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Meeting Schedule 2025-2026

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

Contact person: Cari O'Connor

- October 1, 2025, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- December 3, 2025, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- February 4, 2026, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- June 3, 2026, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- August 5, 2026, from 11:30-1:30 pm

Family Leadership Committee - Family 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 8, 2025, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Setting Limits/Teaching Boundaries
- October 13, 2025, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Doing Things Outside of Electronics
- November 10, 2025, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Teaching Children Respect
- December 8, 2025, from 5:30-7:00 pm - Holiday Celebration with Santa
- January 12, 2026, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Anxiety for Children and Parents
- February 9, 2026, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Calm Parenting
- March 9, 2026, from 5:30-7:00 pm - Family Awareness Month, Special Event for the Whole Family
- April 13, 2026, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Quick Meal Prep for Families
- May 11, 2026, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Bedtime Routines
- June 8, 2026, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Summer Kick Off- Carson City Park and Splash Pad

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

Contact person: Monique Cooper

- October 1, 2025, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- December 3, 2025, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- February 4, 2026, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- June 3, 2026, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- August 5, 2026, from 1:30-2:30 pm

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

Contact person: Mindy Train

- October 1, 2025, from 9:30-10:30am
- February 4, 2026, from 9:30-10:30am
- August 5, 2026, from 9:30-10:30am



TALKING IS TEACHING.ORG



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