

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative **Agenda**

10/1/25

11:30am - 1:30pm Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

- I. Call to order:
- II. Welcome & Introductions:
- III. Public Comment:
- IV. October Agenda Approval:
- V. August Meeting Minutes Approval:
- VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor
 - Childcare Means Business
 - Have you seen this? Stand for Head Start
 - Worth the read New Mexico is the first state in nation to over universal childcare
- VII. New Business:
 - A. Highlight Presentation: Montcalm Prevention Collaborative
 - B. MCGSC 2026-2029 Strategic Plan: Action*
- 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: Jen Peterman
 - B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train
 - C. Family Wellness: Monique Cooper
 - D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper
- X. Roundtable Updates
- XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey
- XII. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date December 3rd, 2025, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

Advance health equities.

Early Childhood services meet high standards of quality.

Children prenatal to age five and their families thrive.



Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Minutes 8/6/25

I. Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am by Anita McIntyre

II. Welcome & Introductions:

Present: Janel Boulis, Elizabeth Buskirk, Monique Cooper, Cindy DeYoung, Jessica Higley, Sue Kearney, Dena Kent, Karen Marsman, Anita McIntyre, Lillie McNeil, Cari O'Connor, Tammy Rumsey, Drew Train, Mindy Train, Tara Gwamna, Jen Stratton

III. Public Comment:

There was no public comment

IV. August Agenda Approval:

A motion was made by Lillie McNeil and supported by Drew Train to approve the agenda of August 6, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

V. June Meeting Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Monique Cooper and supported by Sue Kearney to approve the minutes of June 4, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor

The Business Case for Child Care

2025-2026 Preschool applications are being processed and widely distributed!

Anyone need Hard copies? We need 4-year-olds in every area. We are hoping to fill programs and not send dollars back this year. Three new subrecipients are coming on board: Head Start & Natures Wonder (Edmore, Greenville, & Tri County).

2025-2026 GSRP Enrollment has begun! Families are being processed for income eligibility as they are prioritized for enrollment but PreK for all means if we have age eligible 4-year-olds and classrooms to serve them in we can serve them all for free!

GSRP processed 423 applications as of 7/31/25 for the 2025-2026 school year and 320 children have completed the enrollment process for 2025-2026. This is half of our capacity within the MAISD.

Parent Board member opportunities! If you have any family members you are working with that would be interested, please connect them to me!

MAISD Kindergarten Readiness definition: How do WE answer the question: Did GSRP did get kids ready for kindergarten? Jump Start to Kindergarten Bag activities In Montcalm to support family engagement!

Summer Playgroup Opportunities! Please help us in spreading the word and connecting with parents by putting this information on your Facebooks & social media! In partnership with Early On & Special Education staff Summer Playgroups continued around the MAISD with a focus on Splash pad events. Parks & farms! We are facilitating Playgroup activities throughout the summer. 25 families and 33 children participated in playgroup events in July.

32p4 Home visiting Needs Assessment and Grant proposal update: Waiting to hear about proposal acceptance status which has been delayed due to the State budget issues.

Social media Joint recruitment connections were on fire in July! We had 1542 interactions focused on PreK for All Q & A in July alone.

Math in the Mail Project: We are wrapping up our summer family engagement support focused on Math. Partnering with Head Start. All transitioning Early On (3-year-olds), GSRP, and Head Start children are participating, serving a total of 189 children. This activity will run through August.

Strong Beginnings Application submitted to start a 3-year-old evidenced based preschool opportunity in MAISD. Our application for a partnership with Head Start was chosen, however the current budget issues have put everything on hold. We are waiting to hear if this is moving forward.

Annual 32P Convening: Family Liaisons represented MCGSC at the annual convening in Traverse City. Lots of discussions on the budget and potential changes in GSC work. Day 3 is Friday August 8th and we will be representing Montcalm County as well as supporting two events that same day!

Diaper support /giveaway activities in partnership with United Way is wrapped up. We still have some diaper rash ointment

but diapers are all distributed.

Thank you and Acknowledgements:

United Way: Diaper support for families

Greenville Area Community Foundation for their continued DPIL support. All seven school districts contributed to DPIL support this year!

Billboard partners!! This is still happening throughout Sept 1, 2025!

VII. New Business:

A. Highlight Presentation: Mid-Michigan Health Department WIC

Presentation attached

B. Greenville Childcare Project Data

Data attached

C. 2026-2029 Strategic Planning Activities: *Action

A motion was made by Jessica Higley and supported by Lillie McNeil to approve the 2026-2029 Strategic Planning Activities, as presented. Motion carried. An amend to the motion that additional activities be added under Goal 2 Objective 2, a motion was made by Jessica Higley and seconded by Lilly McNeil to approve the adjusted amendment, as presented. Motion carried.

D. 2024-2025 Preschool Annual Report *Action

A motion was made by Sue Kearnet and supported by Tammy Rumsey to approve the 2024-2025 Preschool Annual Report, as presented. Motion carried.

E. 2025-2026 MCGSC Meeting Schedule *Action

A motion was made by Karen Marsman and supported by Sue Kearney to approve the 2025-2026 MCGSC meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried.

F. 2025-2026 MCGSC Vice Chair Nominations

The motion was made by Tammy Rumsey and supported by Anita McIntyre to approve the self-nomination by Sue Kearney for the 2025-2026 MCGSC Vice Chair position.

VIII. Old Business:

A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train

Current number enrolled - 1,846

Total number of children that graduated TYD - 2,337

Some of the return books that we picked up from the post office that are undeliverable were handed out at the Family Against Narcotics Family Fun Day event

B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Cindy DeYoung Report attached

C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper

Provided 75 beach towels at the end of the end of year family coalition celebration.

While attending the FAN event, saw a child in Let's Talk About Preschool shirt!

IX. Committee Reports:

A. Executive & Communication: Cari O'Connor

No report as we did not meet in July.

B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train

5 families and 9 children attended our Literacy event at the library on July 11th 114 Jumpstart kindergarten bags will be provided at Central Montcalm and Lakeview's Back-to-School Events

C. Family Wellness: Monique Cooper

Did not meet this last month, however at the recent Parent Café event, provided breastfeeding supports to moms and had the support of WIC peer counselor attend the event.

D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper

Handed out 600 MCGSC bags with community resources at 12 events this summer.

X. Roundtable Updates

- Jessica Higley DHHS diaper assistance program for active clients, clients have to participate 4 months in a row, not able to skip a month.
- Monique Cooper United Way is hosting stuff the bus school drive
- Drew Train Safe Sleep materials are changing, so be on the lookout for new materials.
- Sue Kearney Getting ready for Protect Yourself Classes with Corinne Daily Internet Safety training, September 17th at the MACC Sue will be retiring September 30th
- Janel Boulis Enrolling Early Head Start/Head Start kids
- Lillie McNeil Supporting online conscious discipline. Hosting an infant learning community event.
- Cindy DeYoung New flyer for Early On is coming out.
- Dena Kent August is national immunization/breastfeeding month. Have hearing/vision testing on Tuesday's via appointment.
- Cari O'Connor Montcalm county community advancement funding to be used for capital improvements, GACF opening up funding source.

XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey

- Any questions for MMDHD
 - o Great information, a lot of information I wasn't aware of
 - Asking DHHS to host a satellite office
- · Any questions or comments regarding today's meeting
 - o Great information
 - YMCA very grateful for the presence in Montcalm County
- Does your organization need Talking is Teaching materials
 - o Early On needs materials
- Organizations in Montcalm County, you would like more information on
 - o DHHS resources available for Christmas
 - o We Care for Kids

XII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 1:15 pm

Minutes recorded by Mindy Train













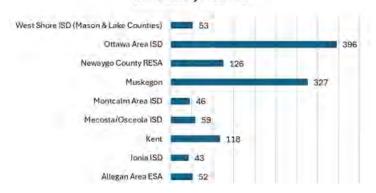
Setting the Record Straight: Early Childhood Matters to Our Region 2024-2025 Data

For over 20 years, Great Start Collaboratives (GSCs) have been a cornerstone in supporting young children and their families across our region. Our community understands that investing early in children's development leads to stronger schools, healthier families, and a more resilient future.

Community-Led, Community-Driven

Over 1,220 community members have partnered with GSC initiatives, not as bystanders—but as active participants—ensuring that initiatives are responsive, inclusive, and built on local strengths. This isn't just about programs; it's about partnerships.

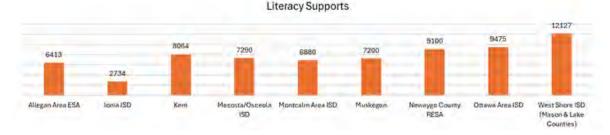
Community Partners





Literacy and Learning Start Early

Thanks to GSC's Literacy Efforts across our region, at least 69,292 families have engaged in early literacy initiatives, equipping children with critical resources long before they enter kindergarten. Reading aloud, storytelling, and family literacy events are just some of the ways GSC fosters a love of learning.



Family Support: GSC System Navigation (Resource & Referral)



Early Support Sets the Foundation

Early identification and intervention make all the difference. Through GSC's child find and connections to resources like developmental screening activities, over 25,367 families have been supported in identifying needs early—often preventing more serious challenges later. These screenings are not just helpful—they're essential.















A Voice for Early Childhood in Our Region

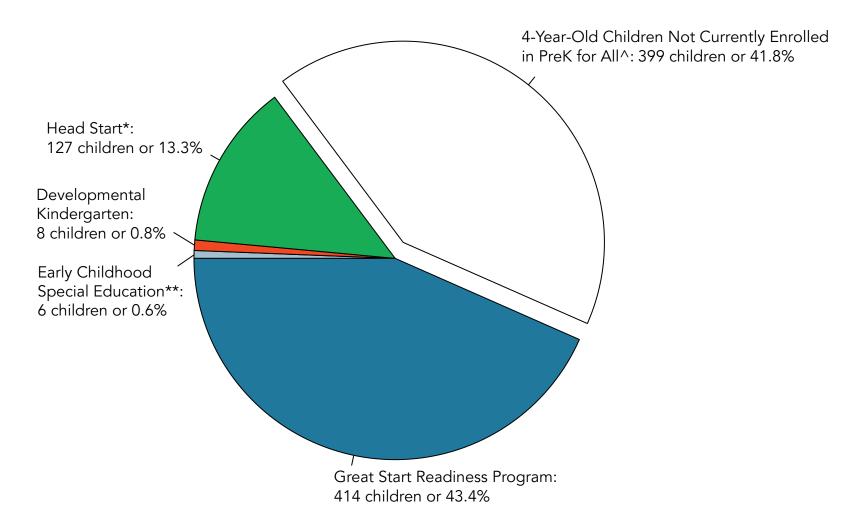
GSC isn't just working for families—they're working with families. By lifting up local voices, supporting leadership development, and advocating for early childhood at the regional level, GSC ensures our children are not left behind.



Montcalm Area ISD

School Year 2024-2025

58.2% of 4-Year-Olds Enrolled in PreK for All



^{*}Data from SY 2023–2024. **Early Childhood Special Education Self-Contained classrooms. ^Children may be enrolled in other, non-PreK for All programs, such as private preschool. Note: All percentages are approximate based on ACS data (954 children).







MiEarly Apprentice helps ensure that Michigan's youngest learners have committed, dedicated and skilled teachers by investing in individuals who are investing in our children's futures. Participants receive resource navigation, funding, and wrap-around supports to begin, continue, and/or complete their journey towards becoming an associate or lead teacher in an early childhood setting.

Virtual Info Session September 30, 2025 6:00 - 7:30pm



Application Deadline
October 17, 2025

Program Benefits

- Best-fit Program Matching
- Full Tuition Coverage
- 1:1 Success Navigation
- Wrap-around Financial Support
- Retention Bonus
- Increased Future Earning Potential

Certification Pathways

- Child Development Associate (CDA)
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree + Teacher Certification
- Teacher Certification Only



Scan here for application and additional information.





Summary

The Welcome Baby Program is a cooperative venture of the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, Early On, Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative, 0-3 Early Head Start, Carson City Hospital, Mid Michigan District Health Department, and Corewell Health United Lifestyles.

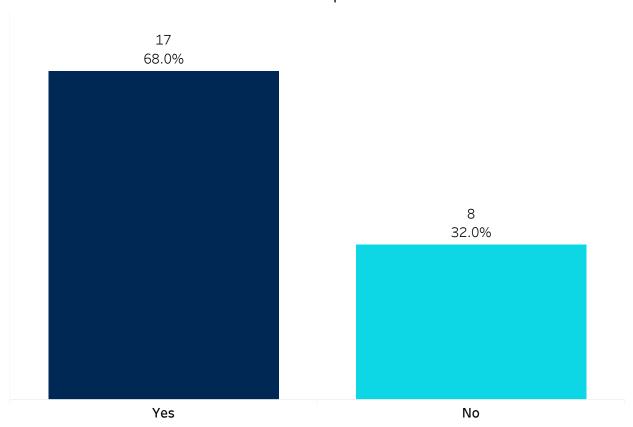
7 new families were enrolled in the Welcome Baby program between September 1, 2024, and August 31, 2025. Over the same period, 25 families were served by our Welcome Baby team.

The results presented in this report are self-reported answers obtained from the child's mother at their latest visit.





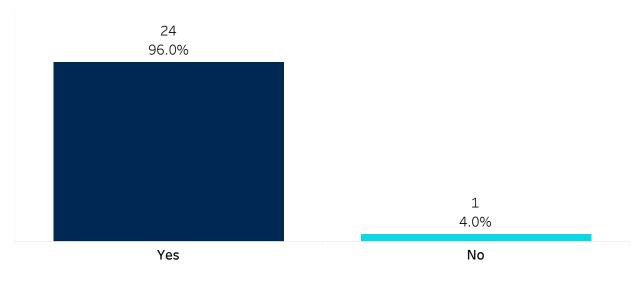
The baby/child's immunizations are up to date Number of Responses: 25





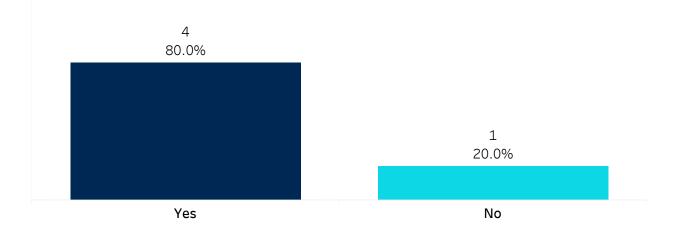


The mother initiated breastfeeding their child Number of Responses: 25



The mother received breastfeeding support at their last visit (Infants less than 12 months of age at encounter)

Number of Responses: 5







Parent received education that positively impacted their understanding and/or confidence in assessing developmental milestones Number of Responses: 23



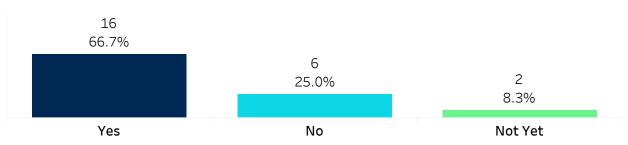
The mother identified one positive parenting technique during the latest visit

Number of Responses: 23



The baby/child met all developmental milestones from the Ages and Stages Questionnaire

Number of Responses: 24







Links to State Reports

2022 Birth Year Michigan Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Estimates - https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/MCH-Epidemiology/2024-06-12---2022-MI-PRAMS-Annual-Tables-FINAL.pdf?rev=b739c156555c42b99303d3de0dc60ab8&hash=93A81B32924509CB20F4224EDDAE0C5E

2022 Michigan Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (MPINC) Results Report - https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/pdf/mpinc/states/2022/michigan-2022-mpinc-report-508.pdf







MAISD Early On LICC Report: October 1, 2025

REFER today for any infant or toddler you have concerns about! ANYONE can refer.

Go to: www.1800Earlyon.org or call 1-800-EarlyOn

Comparison Referral Data

	2017-18 Referrals	2018-19 Referrals	2019-20 Referrals	2020-21 Referrals	2021-22 Referrals	2022-23 Referrals	2023-24 Referrals	2024-25 Referrals	2025-2026 Referrals
July	16	30	35	20	28	9	23	21	29
August	27	40	33	16	26	38	28	28	20*
September	24	13	25	24	30	27	18	30	
October	17	24	19	32	24	19	27	26	
November	12	17	12	11	34	33	21	25	
December	8	17	21	18	14	20	18	23	
January	15	22	35	30	32	26	33	32	
February	29	35	34	23	28	23	32	28	
March	26	26	25	25	38	29	28	33	
April	31	34	14	31	26	28	28	24	
May	17	32	10	22	24	27	27	23	
June	24	25	16	24	33	23	22	21	
TOTAL	229	315	279	266	337	302	305	314	

*As of September 23, 2025

As of September 23, 2025 Montcalm Area ISD Early On has:

- 144 Students enrolled in Early On
- 24 students in referrals
- 40 students who are MMSE Eligible (27.7% of Early On Students)

Outreach and Early On Video: Early On Video Link





Check us out on Social Media



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

- Need more developmental wheels, Early On pamphlets or other materials? Email Elizabeth Buskirk at ebuskirk@maisd.com
- Interested in having an Early On staff member come speak to your organization? Email Cindy DeYoung at <u>cdeyoung@maisd.com</u>

Playgroup:

Playgroup kicks off in October. New this Fall:

- Early Head Start, Early On and GSC are partnering this year
- We have a new Greenville location! We will be at Montcalm Community College in Greenville on Thursday mornings.
- The evening playgroup is at the MACC

Staff:

We are still looking for a Speech Language Pathologist to join the Early On team.

2025 - 2026







FREE Playgroup Opportunities in Montcalm County for families and children!

Any family with children aged birth thru 4 years old living in Montcalm Area Intermediate School District is welcome to attend.

Registration is preferred prior to attending. Call 616-225-6146 to register or for more information.

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.

Book of the Month

October – Seed, Sprout, Pumpkin Pie November – The Good Egg December – Footprints in the Snow January – Who Lives in the Arctic? February – I Need a Hug

March – The Very Hungry Caterpillar

April – Big Bear, Small Mouse

May – Maria Had a Little Llama

MacNaughton Elementary School 415 Cedar St, Howard City, 49329 Tuesday Morning 9:30 am – 11:00 am

October -7^{th} , 14^{th} November -4^{th} , 11^{th} , 18^{th} December -2^{nd} , 9^{th} , 16^{th} January -13^{th} , 20^{th} , 27^{th} February -3^{rd} , 10^{th} , 17^{th} , 24^{th} March -3^{rd} , 10^{th} , 17^{th} , 24^{th} April -14^{th} , 21^{st} , 28^{th} May -5^{th} , 12^{th}

Montabella Elementary

1456 North County Line Rd, Blanchard 49310 Wednesday Morning 9:30 am – 11:00 am

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{October} - 8^{th}, 15^{th} \\ \textbf{November} - 5^{th}, 12^{th}, 19^{th} \\ \textbf{December} - 3^{rd}, 10^{th}, 17^{th} \\ \textbf{January} - 14^{th}, \ 21^{st}, \ 28^{th} \\ \textbf{February} - 4^{th}, \ 11^{th}, 18^{th}, \\ \textbf{March} - 4^{th}, \ 11^{th}, \ 18^{th}, \ 25^{th} \\ \textbf{April} - 15^{th}, \ 22^{nd}, \ 29^{th} \\ \textbf{May} - 6^{th}, 13^{th} \end{array}$

Montcalm Area Career Center 1550 W Sidney Rd, Sidney 48885 Wednesday Morning 9:30 am – 11:00 am

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{October} - 8^{\text{th}}, 15^{\text{th}} \\ \textbf{November} - 5^{\text{th}}, 12^{\text{th}}, 19^{\text{th}} \\ \textbf{December} - 3^{\text{rd}}, 10^{\text{th}}, 17^{\text{th}} \\ \textbf{January} - 14^{\text{th}}, 21^{\text{st}}, 28^{\text{th}} \\ \textbf{February} - 4^{\text{th}}, 11^{\text{th}}, 18^{\text{th}} \\ \textbf{March} - 4^{\text{th}}, 11^{\text{th}}, 18^{\text{th}}, 25^{\text{th}} \\ \textbf{April} - 15^{\text{th}}, 22^{\text{nd}}, 29^{\text{th}} \\ \textbf{May} - 6^{\text{th}}, 13^{\text{th}} \end{array}$

MCC – Greenville Campus – Ash Building 1325 Yellow Jacket Dr, Greenville 48838 Thursday Morning 9:30 am – 11:00 am

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{October} - 16^{th} \\ \textbf{November} - 6^{th}, \ 13^{th}, \ 20^{th} \\ \textbf{December} - 4^{th}, 11^{th}, 18^{th} \\ \textbf{January} - 15^{th}, \ 22^{nd}, \ 29^{th} \\ \textbf{February} - 5^{th}, \ 12^{th}, \ 19^{th}, \ 40^{th}, \ 10^{th}, \ 26^{th}, \ 40^{th}, \ 20^{th}, \ 20$

Evening Playgroup at the Montcalm Area Career Center 1550 W Sidney Rd, Sidney 48885

Thursday Evening 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

October 16th November 20th December 18th January 22nd February 19th March 19th April 23rd May 14th