



▶ Preschool Scholarship/Imagination Library.....1

▶ GREAT START COLLABORATIVE.....2



▶ GREAT PARENT COALITION.....3

▶ EARLY ON.....4

▶ PARENTING5 & 6



▶ INFANTS & TODDLERS.....7 & 8

▶ PRESCHOOL9

▶ COMMUNITY RESOURCES.....10

○ MAY/JUNE 2013

EUP Great Start *Connections*

“ALL CHILDREN WILL BEGIN KINDERGARTEN SAFE, HEALTHY, AND READY TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE.”

ATV Event Raising Funds for the Becky Davis Early Learning Scholarship!

What do ATVs, Side by Sides, motorcycles and a retired school bus have in common? They all joined together on Saturday, April 27th to raise money for the Becky Davis Early Learning Scholarship! Todd's Tavern in Moran hosted their first Spring Fling Ride. The event included not only a ride but pizza buffet dinner, 50/50, and over 25 prizes!

62 riders traveled from Sault Ste. Marie, Brimley, Rudyard, St. Ignace, and Moran. Todd St. Andrew, owner of Todd's Tavern, donated \$755.00 from the event to the Early Learning Scholarship.

The Becky Davis Early Learning Scholarship will provide three year old children the opportunity to attend a tuition based preschool program when it is not economical for their family.



Pictured Left to right: Heather Arnold - Parent Coalition Representative, Traci Tamilyn,- Parent Liaison, Todd St. Andrew - owner of Todd's Tavern, Heather Bird - GSC Director, Kate Gibb - Parent Liaison

Imagination Library

Get On Board With The Imagination Library! If you have a child between birth and five years of age and live in Chippewa, Mackinac or Luce county, your child is eligible to receive free books. The EUP Intermediate School District, the EUP Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is available in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Recently 112 children were taken off the waiting list and spots remain open. To learn more about this exciting program or to enroll your child please visit www.eupkids.com.

EUP GREAT START

Great Start Collaborative

Eastern Upper Peninsula Great Start Collaborative Doing More To Help Michigan's Young Children Succeed

Statewide Evaluation Report Shows 83% of local community members and organizations believe in the need for early childhood change. April is the Month of the Young Child, and nowhere is there more evidence of changes being made to ensure all children are ready for school, than right here in the Eastern U.P. through the work of the Great Start Collaborative.

According to the statewide "Evaluation of the Great Start Initiative," a new report released by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, more parents and providers of early childhood services think a greater number of Michigan's young children have gained access to education, child care and physical and social-emotional health services over the past two years, and that parents are playing a larger role in making sure those services are available.

Locally, the report found that we had a 40% increase in Parent Leadership & Voice since 2010. This tells us that local parents are eager to be supportive voice of their child's wellbeing.

In the E.U.P. the biggest accomplishment is whopping 45% increase in coordination and collaboration between agencies and partners that support families with young children. This exceeds the state average by almost 10%!

Reenie Butler, Community Action Head Start Director & Great Start Collaborative Board Members says, "The Great Start Collaborative

has provided an opportunity for organizations in the Eastern Upper Peninsula to work together with parents to analyze our communities to make a difference in the lives of children and families. Time spent with the GSC is a great investment in the future!"

The need for more investment in early childhood is clear. One in three Michigan children enters kindergarten with previously unidentified health, social-emotional, developmental or learning problems, all of which can become a life sentence for poor academic achievement and limited opportunities if those problems aren't addressed.

The Great Start Initiative report shows that the program is succeeding in getting more providers, parents and community members on board to promote the goal of ensuring that children are ready for school.

"In order for our young children to enter kindergarten well prepared for their educational journey, we must exceed at meeting their needs by the time they are 5. The collaboration that happens at our table does just that. Each member brings their expertise and passion for early childhood success, which includes parental expertise provided by parent representatives. We have the advantage of knowing what our families need and the experts to figure out how we will meet those needs", Heather Bird – Great Start Collaborative Director

Questions, concerns, or comments contact:

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EUP GREAT START

Great Start Parent Coalition

The EUP Great Start Collaborative and Parent Coalition will be heading to Lansing on May 14th for Star Power 2013! Star Power gives us, the citizens, a chance to let lawmakers know health, developmental, and educational support are key to creating the next generation of Michigan's workforce and productive citizenry. Early childhood policy is a critical piece of Michigan's future and the choices made by policy makers today will be felt for years to come. Every opinion matters, every voice counts. EUP's Sandbox Party Coordinator Chris Ruby stated, "What makes Star Power special to me is when you look around and see people from every part of the state, all walks of life, people who normally wouldn't ever be in the same place at the same time, and yet they are all at Star Power because our kids are the greatest common denominator. It is very cool to see all of these strangers unite with the common purpose of trying to make Michigan a better place for children."

The Sandbox Party is a nonpartisan movement for Michigan residents who recognize the need to make sure all children are healthy, strong and ready to go when they arrive at the kindergarten door. Today in Michigan, about 35 percent of kindergarteners are unprepared for the rigors of school. Chris Ruby is the advocacy coordinator for the Michigan Sandbox Party in Northern

Michigan and the eastern Upper Peninsula. He is the father of two young daughters and is active in Great Start committee work. Please visit Chris's Blog at <http://michigansandboxparty.org/node/917> to learn more about him and The Sandbox Party! As you will read in Chris's blog he is a perfect example of Parent Leadership. He started out attending a Parent Coalition meeting for the free food and an interesting speaker and ended up a Sandbox Party Coordinator.

Parent leadership is nurtured when parents are given the opportunity for personal growth, to gain the knowledge and skills to function in leadership roles and represent a "parent voice" to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities. When parents are leaders their potential to effect change for themselves and others is tremendous. Parents are their child's first teacher and the key decision maker for their child. Parents also provide "real world" perspectives on how programs currently operate. Who is better to help promote change where it is needed than these very parents? Look for your area Parent Liaison at community events and ask how you can be involved in the EUP Great Start Parent Coalition!

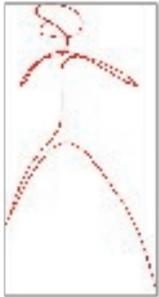
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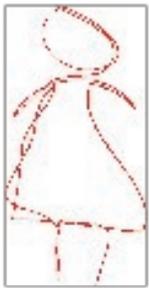
Early On® wants to help you



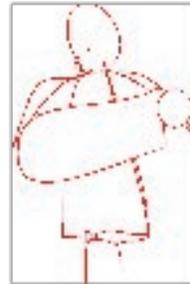
Help Your Child
Develop and Learn



Effectively
Communicate
Your Child's Needs



Help Your Child
Transition to
Preschool



Know
Your Rights

Parent Involvement is key! Parents know their children best and provide valuable input to the Early On team. If you have questions about how Early On can help your child develop and learn, communicate your child's needs, or know your family rights, please contact your service coordinator.

Parent Input Needed

Currently Early On improvement focus groups are taking place and we are seeking the input of families involved in the Early On program. The focus of this group is to increase family satisfaction with child and family outcomes. If you would like to participate or provide feedback, please contact Jessica Savoie at jessicas@eup.k12.mi.us or by phone at 906-632-3373, ext: 142.

Questions, concerns, or comments contact:

Jessica Savoie, Early Childhood Supervisor

Email: jessicas@eupisd.com

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PARENTING

Routines

Routines are something that as adults we may not think of often. We know what has to be taken care of every day and we go about doing it because we have mastered the skills required to accomplish this. Children are just learning everything about themselves and their world and that is why they need routines. They have not yet mastered the skills required and with that comes the need for a feeling of safety, comfort, and control that will help them learn.

Children gain this sense of security from routines because it helps them to know what is going to happen, when it will happen and & the order it will happen in.

Change is difficult for most of us, but consider for a moment the rapid and frequent changes that a child experiences. Children are in a constant state of change, from their bodies growing & changing for several years to everything that they are learning about their world moment to moment. From learning that their cry will help a need to be met, to talking, giving up a pacifier, sleeping in a bed, riding a tricycle, writing, reading, etc. The rate at which a young child learns about their world will never be matched at any other time in life. When children have daily routines it allows them to master a skill and become more ready to take on the next change or challenge.

It is important for children to have routines at home, in child care settings and in the classroom. Routines help children to learn and master skills, and make transitions easier. Smooth transitions make for more content children, parents, teachers and care providers.

The following is an example of a partial daily routine:

Morning:

- Wake at a set time daily (even on days when you don't have to)
- Begin the day with affection
- Personal grooming (the same every day)
- Breakfast

Going to daycare or school:

- Take the same route daily
- Sing along or listen to the same songs on the way
- A special goodbye (kiss, hug, etc)

Getting Home:

- Play together
- Homework or age appropriate activity
- Set the dinner table

Questions, concerns, or comments contact:

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PARENTING

Routines -Continued-

Mealtime:

- Have all meals at consistent times
- Talk about your day
- Listen to music
- Consider setting up food days (children love knowing that every Wednesday is spaghetti night for ex)

Bedtime Routine:

- Bath time
- Pajamas
- Story time
- Time to turn the lights out and go to sleep

Routines can make your life easier, save on planning time and reduce the stress of unplanned events that may arise. This is not to say that you should not be spontaneous. It is normal to decide to do something different, like changing the clean up routine after dinner one night so that you can play a family game together. The idea is that children will still know that the family game time comes after dinner. This also helps children to learn some self control. Your child wants to go to the playground, but they know that they have to wait until afternoon to go. This helps them to look forward.

When we talk about infants, we want to make sure that we respond to their needs. Our infant lets us know when they are hungry, tired, need their diaper changed, need to be held, etc. As babies grow they begin to learn the first steps of routines, such as, we sleep at night, we eat when we are hungry, etc. We always want to make sure we respond to the needs of our infant. Putting an infant on a routine that we set is not being responsive to their needs.

In summary, here are a few ways that you and your children will benefit from routines:

1. Routines eliminate power struggles
2. Routines help children cooperate
3. Routines help children learn to take charge of their own activities
4. Routines help children learn the concept of looking forward
5. Routines help children get on schedule. Having a schedule will help children fall asleep more easily at night
6. Routines help parents maintain consistent expectations and healthy habits

Questions, concerns, or comments contact:

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INFANTS & TODDLERS

3 ½ to 5 ½ months

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THIS AGE?

Look for your baby to:	Ways you can help:
Hold toys	Give your baby safe things to hold
Sleep all night	Put her in bed to fall asleep alone
Reach for toys	Offer her bright, colorful toys
Put things in her mouth	Allow her to put safe, soft things in her mouth
Roll over	Give her room to roll around
Smile and laugh	Smile and laugh with your baby
Listen to you	Talk to your baby

YOUR BABY'S LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Look for your baby to:	Ways you can help:
Listen to all types of sounds	Give your baby many sounds to listen to: musical tapes, chimes, bells, songs
Turn his head to find where a sound is coming from	See if he will turn his head when you ring a soft bell about 18 inches away from his ear
Like to hear his own name	Say his name often in a loving way
Know your voice	Talk and sing to your baby. Say nursery rhymes
Like the sounds he can make	Listen carefully and copy the sounds he makes
Practice his sounds when he is alone	Give your baby time alone
Gurgle and coo when he's happy	Copy the sounds he makes. Try to take turns

Your baby's brain:

- Responds to voices more often than to other sounds.
- Has difficulty making connections about sounds when your baby has an ear infection.
- Sorts the sounds of language your baby hears into mental maps for learning language.
- Learns which mouth movements go with the sounds he hears.

YOUR BABY'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Look for your baby to:	Ways you can help:
Smile and wiggle when he sees you	Play with him gently. Enjoy his company
Like being held by you and playing with you	Cuddle and rock your baby.
Laugh and giggle	Gently tickle your baby and laugh with him.
Like people	Take him with you when you go out
Stop crying when he sees you coming	Go to your baby when he cries. Help him feel better.

Questions, concerns, or comments contact:

Sandy Feleppa or Becky Meyers
 Email: sfeleppa@eup.k12.mi.us or bmeyers@eup.k12.mi.us
 Phone: (906) 322-6816 (Sandy)

INFANTS & TODDLERS –continued–

Your baby’s brain:

- Makes connections for learning best when you and your child pay attention to one thing together and you are not distracted.
- Connects feeling calm and secure to simple lullabies and stories that you repeat often.
- Changes and develops when you share experiences with your child.

YOUR BABY’S INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

Look for your baby to:	Ways you can help:
Examine small objects with his hands, fingers, and eyes	Give him safe objects to hold and look at
Put things in his mouth to find out about them (this does not mean he is trying to eat them)	Let him put safe toys into his mouth. Make sure they are larger than 2 inches across.
Bat or kick at things that are close	Hand safe objects within his reach to bat at.
Stare at what he sees	Let him look into a mirror.
Listen to sounds and voices	Take your baby to different places to hear new sounds. Play music and sing to your baby.

Your baby’s brain:

- Increases connections the more your baby uses all of his senses to explore.
- Needs quiet time to build connections and to reduce feelings of stress from overstimulation.
- Has vision centers which are stimulated when you offer your baby different angles, colors, objects, and views to see.

YOUR BABY’S MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

Look for your baby to:	Ways you can help
Roll from side to side	Call to your baby from one side, then the other side
Lift his head and chest	Put your baby on a blanket on the floor. Hold a toy a bit above and in front of him to look at.
Roll from tummy to back	Lay your baby on his side to help him roll.
Sit with help	Put pillows around your baby to help him sit.
Bring objects to his mouth to explore.	Give your baby safe things to explore with his mouth.
Hold and turn over toys in his hands	Give him safe toys to reach for and hold.
Reach for and grasp toys	Shake and rattle toys near your baby when he is on his tummy or back.
Kick his feet up	Hand toys by your baby’s feet for him to kick.
Like to move his body in many different ways	Rock, swing, bounce, and dance with your baby.

Your baby’s brain:

- Sends signals to muscles to make them move.
- Makes connections when you help your baby practice movements over and over
- Learns about space and the effects your baby’s movements have in it.

Source: Parents As Teachers

Questions, concerns, or comments contact:

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 Phone: (906) 322-6816 (Sandy)

Preschool

A quality preschool education is essential for children today. It equips them with the skills they will need for future learning. Whether it is as simple as the ability to sit while listening to a story or noticing differences in the world around them, students need to experience, question and build meaning for themselves. This is how true learning and student achievement occurs.

The research shows that children who attend a high quality preschool are more likely to be successful in school and life.

[Perry Preschool Longitudinal Study](#)

The study found participants, age 40, who attended preschool

- had higher earnings
- were more likely to hold a job
- committed fewer crimes
- more likely to graduate from high school

[NIEER/High Scope\(Michigan Funded Preschool Programs\)](#)

The study found participants attending preschool

- were significantly more advanced in overall child development
- had higher school readiness skills (reading and math)
- had fewer absences in Kindergarten
- showed lower incidence of retention

Look for a preschool that has the items listed below in place.

- fully certified and trained teachers with experience
- a curriculum that is appropriate for their age and connected to state/national learning standards
- opportunities for parents to be involved
- safe and nurturing environment which includes daily routine, classroom arrangement and adult/child ratio licensed by the state of Michigan.

There are Great Start Readiness Programs in many areas across the EUP and all of them have all those components in place. Call your local elementary school or (906)632-3373 ext 141 for more information. You can also visit www.eupkids.com for more information. Don't wait; applications are being accepted at most sites right now!



Questions, concerns, or comments contact:

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

War Memorial Hospital proudly sponsors 16th annual Community Baby Shower!

Thursday– May 16, 2013

6:00pm to 8:00pm

Sault Area High School

Marquette Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Local organizations and businesses will have tables with program information for parents and children. Join us in celebrating YOUR family and attend this wonderful community event.

Door prizes, refreshments, and lots of helpful information provided.

Fun Mobile Apps for Toddlers

Parents now have a new pocket-sized tool for engaging their children. Here are some mobile apps to try:

Toddler Teaser Shapes for Apple products

Happy Flash Cards for Android

Alphabet Zoo for Apple products

iWrite Words Lite for Apple products

Read Me Pencilbot Preschool for Apple products

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