



# DELTA-SCHOOLCRAFT GREAT START COLLABORATIVE AND FAMILY COALITION





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# What is the Great Start Collaborative?

- Michigan's early childhood system – supports young children and their families from prenatal to 8 years old.
- Various initiatives aimed at ensuring children are healthy, ready to learn, and have access to quality early childhood services.
- Engages early childhood partners who are committed to identifying gaps in services that are provided in the community.
- Opportunities for collaboration are created based upon these gaps, which helps ensure that every child in the area will have what they need to be successful in school and in life.

# What is the Great Start Family Coalition?

- The sister body to the local Great Start Collaboratives.
- Engage parents as leaders and advocates for young children
- Strengthens the Early Childhood Community by connecting families and supporting the work of the Collaborative.
- Members of the Family Coalition include parents, grandparents, foster parents, step-parents, adoptive parents, guardians, and others who are the primary caregiving family members.

# Senior Storytime



- Every third Wednesday of the month, seniors and kids aged 0-5 come together at the Senior Center to take part in "Stories & Crafts with Seniors and Tots".
- There is a different story time theme where the seniors read to the kids, help the kids with a craft, and eat a small snack.

# Reach Out and Read

- A national, evidence-based pediatric reading model that promotes early literacy at home
- Doctors are able to emphasize the importance of early literacy at routine pediatric visits which fosters a love of reading, and prepares children for school success
- Positively impacts language development,
- Strong parent-child bonds through shared reading.
- We have three Reach Out and Read sites and have given away over 2,000 books to families.
- <https://www.reachoutandreadmi.org/> for more information and how to get involved



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# Book Nooks

- We have installed 9 Book Nooks throughout the community!
- A majority of these friendly, child-sized reading spaces have been provided to doctors' offices and health departments.
- The locations decide the furniture and items that best work for their space.
- We've recently added books about diversity and celebrating students with different needs to their book nooks



# Busy Books

- Parent members put together these fun, screen-free activities as part of a parent-lead strategy to increase parent-child interaction and reduce screen time during waiting and quiet times.
- We collaborated with Copper Country Great Start Collaborative to help the activities come to life by transforming them into a colorful, easy-to-carry booklet great for any doctor's office waiting room!





# Blankets in the ER

- We have been able to donate over 200 children's blankets to the OSF as well as the ER in Schoolcraft.
- The blankets will be able to help comfort kids during difficult moments.





# Help Me Grow

## Michigan

- National system of support for families with young children.
- We are part of Michigan's network offering a free central point of contact to connect families to resources and services that promote healthy development.
- Help Me Grow focuses on early detection and intervention.
- Families contact a Care Coordinator with any questions, concerns or needs they have for their child.
- The Care Coordinator assists them in finding available resources to meet their need and they follow up to ensure the family was successful.
- 844-464-0005



# CONNECT EARLY. REFER WITH CONFIDENCE.

A physician's guide to referring children ages 0-5 to early support services for better developmental outcomes.



## Early On Birth-3 Early Intervention

Refer if there are concerns about:

- Developmental delays or diagnosed medical conditions in infants or toddlers
- Missing milestones like walking, talking, or feeding

*Services are provided in the child's natural environment, i.e., child's home or childcare.*



Scan the QR code  
or visit  
1800earlyon.org  
to make a referral.



## Build Up 3-5 Special Education

Begin an inquiry if there are concerns about:

- Not meeting milestones and/or struggling to learn
- Social-emotional delays and/or behaviors that **interfere with learning**

*Services are typically provided through the local school district in a preschool or childcare setting.*



Scan the QR code  
or call 844-464-0005 to make an inquiry.



## Unsure or seeking other supports? Refer to Help Me Grow.

Help Me Grow is for families of all children **prenatal-5** who may need support with:

- Behavior concerns
- Parenting questions
- Preschool (free or tuition)
- Childcare
- Basic needs, like diapers or formula
- Home visiting
- Developmental screening
- *Early On* or *Build Up* referrals

We will chat with the family to understand their needs, make referrals, and follow up to ensure they're connected. **You're busy; let us help.**

**Scan the QR code or call 844-464-0005 to start a referral today!**





# How can I get involved?

- We hold a Collaborative meeting four times a year from 10am-11:30am.
  - Different organizations report out on items they're working on or number of families they're seeing.
- The Action Agenda meetings happen on a more regular basis from 11:30am-1pm.
  - The Action Agenda meetings are where we plan activities and different initiatives to support families.
- To find your local Great Start Collaborative and connect with your family liaison or director visit :

<https://www.michigan.gov/mikidsmatter/community/gspc/great-start-collaboratives-and-parent-coalitions-search-page>

## Monthly Great Start Collaborative Meetings 2025–2026

September	Action Agenda 11:30–1	9/24/25
October	Collaborative Meeting 10– 11:30 Action Agenda 11:30–1	10/29/25
November	Action Agenda 11:30–1	11/19/2
January	Collaborative Meeting 10– 11:30 Action Agenda 11:30–1	<sup>5</sup> 1/28/26
February	Action Agenda 11:30–1	2/25/26
April	Collaborative Meeting 10– 11:30 Action Agenda 11:30–1	4/22/26
May	Action Agenda 11:30–1	5/27/26
July	Collaborative Meeting 10– 11:30 Action Agenda 11:30–1	7/22/26
August	Action Agenda 11:30–1	8/26/26



