

**Did you know** .....

- \* *By age four, 90% of a child's brain is fully developed.*
- \* *Sixteen of every 100 babies born to mothers living in Genesee County did not receive adequate prenatal care.*
- \* *Reading proficiency by third grade is an important indicator of future success in school and life.*
- \* *Children who start school 1-2 years behind are more likely to drop out of school as teens.*
- \* *Children who attend a high quality preschool program before kindergarten are better prepared academically, socially and emotionally.*
- \* *Investment in the first five years of life pays high dividends to the public and the child.*
- \* *Many Genesee County children enter kindergarten with previously unidentified health, social-emotional or learning problems.*
- \* *The home is the first and most important learning environment for children.*

*(Source: Genesee County Report to the Community)*

*By educating, motivating, and involving the citizens of Genesee County, together we can ensure that every child enters kindergarten healthy and eager to learn. Let your voice and needs be heard. Become a member of **The Great Start Parent Coalition!***



**Genesee County  
Great Start Parent Coalition**



***Parents working together to make a positive impact  
in the lives of children in Genesee County***

The **Great Start Parent Coalition** is a subset of the Genesee County Great Start Collaborative. This collaborative is the planning and decision making body for Michigan's Great Start System at the local level. Michigan's Great Start System includes connecting parents to services that provide the following:



- Basic Needs, Economic Security and Child Safety
- Physical Health Care
- Social-Emotional Health Care
- Early Care and Education
- Parent Education and Family Support

The **Great Start Parent Coalition** is a “grass roots” organization which represents the voice of the family, the child, and their community to the collaborative.



**The Great Start Parent Coalition Vision:**  
To make every child in Genesee County safe, healthy, and eager to succeed in school and in life.

**The Great Start Parent Coalition Mission:**  
To assure a coordinated system of community resources and supports to help all Genesee County families provide a great start for their children from pre-birth to age five.



### **Members of the Great Start Parent Coalition....**

- \* Are provided **FREE** snacks and **FREE** childcare during the meetings
- \* Meet monthly to organize, plan, and participate in community events
- \* Help families by connecting them with needed services
- \* Are the voice of their family and their community
- \* Identify services and programs needed for the children of Genesee County
- \* Enjoy having fun while making a difference
- \* Come face-to-face with legislative policy makers, business owners, and community leaders concerning investing in early childhood education
- \* Promote the importance of investing in early childhood education
- \* Are empowered to make decisions for their children

Children are our future. You can support other parents of Genesee County by becoming a member of **The Great Start Parent Coalition**. Meetings are held monthly at the Genesee Intermediate School District's Health, Safety and Nutrition Services Building, located at 2284 South Ballenger Highway, Flint, MI 48503.

For more information or to **become a member of The Great Start Parent Coalition**, please visit our website at [www.greatstartgenesee.org](http://www.greatstartgenesee.org) or you may contact Helen Maxwell, Parent Liaison, at [hmaxwell@geneseeisd.org](mailto:hmaxwell@geneseeisd.org) or Heidi Roof, Parent Liaison, at [hwestroof@geneseeisd.org](mailto:hwestroof@geneseeisd.org) or you may call either of them at (810) 591-5126 or contact Beth Hackett, Coordinator, at (810) 591-5588.



**“A snowflake by itself is powerless.....but we know what they can do when they stick together!”**

