

Give your child the best possible start in life!

hold*laugh*love*play
teach*care*read

THE GREAT START VISION:

To ensure every child in Hillsdale County is safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and in life.

THE GREAT START MISSION:

The purpose of the Hillsdale County Great Start is to assure a coordinated system of community resources to assist all Hillsdale County families in providing a great start for their children from birth through age five.



Visit our website at:
www.greatstarhillsdale.org

To join in the vision to ensure every child in Hillsdale County gets a great start, or to find out more about the Great Start Collaborative and the Parent Coalition, please contact:

Michelle Failing or Lisa Tinkey
Parent Liaisons
(517) 437-0990 ext. 217
3471 Beck Rd.
Hillsdale, MI 49242

Ginelle Skinner,
Great Start Coordinator at
(517) 437-0990 ext. 207
3471 Beck Rd.
Hillsdale, MI 49242
gskinner@hillsdale-isd.org



PARENT COALITION

Get involved and make a difference!



A partner of the
Early Childhood Investment Corporation



WHAT IS THE PARENT COALITION?

The Great Start Parent Coalition is made up of parents in Hillsdale County that represent the diversity of the community.

As a member, parents may:

- ✪ share with the Great Start Collaborative the obstacles, concerns, desires, and needs you face as a parent of a young child in Hillsdale County,
- ✪ have access to training in leadership and childhood advocacy,
- ✪ build a supportive network of friends,
- ✪ strengthen the civic engagement of parents in the community, on behalf of young children,
- ✪ educate policy-makers on the importance of investing in the first five years of life and the essential role that parents and families play in the lives of young children,
- ✪ Be reimbursed for mileage and have child care provided on-site for all Parent Coalition Meetings.

As a member of the Parent Coalition, you'll have the opportunity to voice your valuable opinions about how our early childhood programs are actually doing, support their efforts, and let the right people know what you think is lacking. You'll also have the opportunity to help develop new programs and community events and make them fit your needs.

Our primary goal is to create a network of feedback to guide the GSC on the needs and desires of our community. It's all free, and at every meeting we'll provide free quality child care, offer refreshments or a delicious meal, give door prizes, and reimburse for mileage to and from the meeting.



"When we invest wisely in children and families, the next generation will pay that back through a lifetime of productivity and responsible citizenship"
www.developingchild.net

HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

Parents can decide their level of involvement depending on their own availability.



All parents wishing to maintain at least the minimum level of involvement should provide contact information to the Parent Liaison, gspchillsdale@gmail.com, to receive mailings and/or emails of current events, news, and activities.

What works best for your family?

- ★ Supportive members – parents who send and receive information and distribute to their own community circles.
- ★ Parent members - parents who attend meetings regularly, volunteer at Parent Coalition events and activities and actively relay information among their own community circles.
- ★ GSC Parent members – parents who serve on both the Parent Coalition and the Great Start Collaborative. Parents attending Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meetings will receive a \$25 gift card (GSC Meetings only), mileage reimbursement, and child care provided on-site.

WHO CAN BE A PART OF THE PARENT COALITION?

Any resident of Hillsdale County who serves in a parenting role to a child 12 and under is welcome to join.