

Thankfulness



Thank You Parents



As we transition into November, a month that typically focuses on thankfulness, we would like to take this time to say “Thank You” to our parents. We appreciate your input, your participation, your volunteer time & your contributions in helping make our coalition such an amazing group to be a

part of. We could not do a lot of this work without your help and we want to take the time to let you know that YOU ARE TRULY APPRECIATED! Thank you, Thank you & Thank you again!

Affirmations For Children

1. I am important
2. I am smart
3. I am a good friend
4. I am kind and loving
5. I am grateful for my body
6. I am loved
7. I am brave
8. I am a good listener
9. I am helpful
10. I am happy
11. I try my hardest
12. I'm proud of myself
13. I care about others
14. I can do hard things
15. I believe in me
16. I love to learn from challenges
17. I enjoy new adventures
18. I am safe
19. Today is a great day
20. I am free to be myself
21. I am truthful
22. I like to share what I have
23. I have many talents
24. I get better every single day
25. I can do anything

For The Month of November—start each day with an affirmation with your child(ren). Have them look in the mirror and repeat the affirmation of the day.



There are so many things that you can do with your little ones! Here are a few tips on how to integrate talking, singing and pointing in your daily routines!

Sing and Recite

Sing songs and recite nursery rhymes. Choose ones you remember from your own childhood, read in books, or make up new ones.

Be Specific

The more specific you can be with words, the more your child will learn. For example, instead of saying “Let’s go,” you could say, “Let’s go shopping at the grocery store to buy some food.”



GSPC On The Radio

Leaps & Bounds Radio Series

Also be sure to check out the following links for the Success Basics Series by Shelly Irwin on the WGUV morning show. Our amazing parent representative Christina Pocklington talked about the Count basic and the power of counting!

Power Of Counting

Halloween Candy Buyback

Do your kids have WAY MORE candy than they can consume and you’ve already taken your MOM TAX? On November 4th from 3:00pm—6:00pm Hudsonville Dental will buy your Halloween candy for \$1/lb up to 5lbs. The candy will then be shipped to troops overseas via a program called Operation Gratitude. A great way to give back and support our troops!

Welcome To Our New Parent Representatives

Shonetonna Cox, Leah Groves, Tina Collins, Yolanda Johnson, Iris Gipson

We are glad you joined us and look forward to the impact you will make in the work of early childhood!

About the
Great Start Parent Coalition

Working hand-in-hand with the Great Start Collaborative members, the GSPC consists of parents and caregivers of children under 12. The GSPC is dedicated to informing and shaping early childhood initiatives, and helping families raise children who are supported and prioritized. Every coalition meeting encourages parents to share stories, participate in workshops, and advocate. We are always looking for dedicated parents to join us! There are many ways to have your voice heard. If you're a parent, we urge you to join our cause. Take action. Speak up. And discover how influential you can be today.

Trusted Advisor Grant

The Great Start Parent Coalition's trusted advisor grant work is well under way! The areas of our grant are outlined and described below:

Parent Support Stations

Equipped with a laptop or tablet, phone, hotspot and resource materials our parent representatives are bringing resources and assistance TO the community. Our goal is to make the process simpler for parents to access the resources that they need. We have 38 parent support stations scheduled throughout Kent County!

Parent Cafés

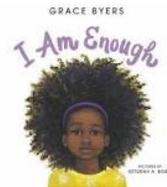
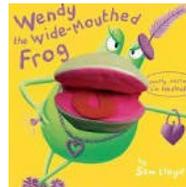
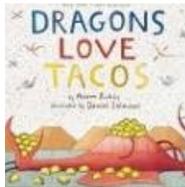
We have two cafés scheduled in the Latinx community. The cafés give parents the opportunity to discuss the protective factors in a safe environment while enjoying coffee and snacks.

Latinx Parent Coalition Meetings

These meetings mirror our regular coalition meetings, but are facilitated completely in Spanish. Bringing these meetings to the Latinx population has been beyond amazing and the feedback on the impact these meetings have had on the parents in attendance has been extremely positive.

Reading Recommendations

Check out these books from your local library!



Great Start Parent Coalition

Suite 300
118 Commerce AVE SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: 616-632-1007
E-mail: gsparents@successstartsearly.org

Parent Liaisons

Tomarra Richardson
Jessica Turk

Parent Representatives

Fredericka Brown * Nicole Burman *
Tina Collins * Shonteonna Cox * Lisa
Ellison * Reyna Garcia * Iris Gipson *
Leah Groves * Wayne Hill * Latesha
Lipscomb * Tana Martin * Joseph Mitchell
* Christina Pocklington * Cara Sutcliffe *
Joslyn Ward * Julie Young * Olga York

COFI Game Changers

Iris Gipson * Wayne Hill * Yolanda
Johnson * Katesawn Marsh * Dartanian
Mayfield * Christina Pocklington *
Malikah Williams



November GSPC Meeting

Michigan League For Public Policy: Kids Count Data

A STATE-TO-STATE
COMPARISON
OF OVERALL CHILD
WELL-BEING: 2019

States Ranked 1-13
States Ranked 14-25
States Ranked 26-37
States Ranked 38-50



Join us as we talk with the Michigan League for Public Policy about the data results for Kent County and how that data is used to drive change in our community.

We'll provide free dinner and childcare so you can take the night off to relax and learn!

The meeting will be November 14th 5:45pm-8:00pm.

651 Franklin SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507



Do you ever wish you could talk to other parents that are dealing with the same circumstances you are? Do you crave adult interaction/conversation in a safe environment? If you answered yes, you should definitely join us for one of our Parent Cafés. Locations/times are listed on our Facebook page and website @ [GSPC Website](#). We also have Dad Cafés which are specifically tailored to fathers and the needs that they have while raising their children.

DHHS Volunteer Opportunity

Do you love to read? DHHS has a program where volunteers can read to children on Mondays & Wednesdays from 9:00am—12:00pm. They also accept donations of books (new & used). Their goal is to give every child a book when they visit DHHS with their parents! Spreading the love of literacy one book at a time.

