



Christmas -Tis The Season

The Christmas season is a time of gathering together as a family, doing for others and creating memories and traditions that will last a lifetime. What traditions have you created as a family? It's never too late to start a family tradition. For Christmas Eve we deliver goodies to 2 fire departments, the veterans home and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Helen Devos Children's Hospital. Every Christmas morning we have the same breakfast—overnight apple cinnamon French toast and breakfast casserole, while breakfast is baking we read the Christmas story and then open gifts. We'd love to share traditions that you have with your family on our facebook page. Email your traditions to us at gsparents@successstartsearly.org for us to share!

Preschool Openings—Act Fast



Looking for quality preschool for your child? See the list of locations with available spots below.

Contact 616-447-2409 Option #1 or email KCPI@kentisd.org to complete an application.

- **White Early Childhood Center**
- **Kenowa Hills Early Childcare Center**
- **ELNC**
Explore and Learn
UM Community House
Baxter Community Center
- **Thornapple Kellogg Learning Center**



Becoming good at math begins long before a child enters school. Each one of us is born to be a “math person.” Even babies can do simple math, such as noticing amounts and patterns. Toddlers love learning math concepts and games, such as comparing sizes and shapes. These concepts help them make sense of the world. You can help your child learn math as you play and talk together during everyday moments. By building on their natural skills and interests, you will be boosting their brain development and preparing them to do well in school (Source: successstartsearly.org). Check out the link below regarding babies and counting!

[Babies Understand Counting](#)



GRPD Realtime Public Safety Messages

Did you know that you can sign up to receive text messages regarding safety in your area—even your zip code?

Text: Grand Rapids to 888777

Text: Your Zip Code to 888777

Ice Skating At Rosa Parks

Looking for an inexpensive winter activity? Try out ice skating at Rosa Parks Circle. The season began November 29th and runs through February 23rd. Cost is only \$1/child and \$3/adult!



Upcoming Events

Parents Partnering for Change
Coalition Meeting
December 12, 2019

Nutrition Latinx Coalition Meeting
December 19, 2019

Check out the events tab on our facebook for the times/locations of these meetings.

About the
Great Start Parent Coalition

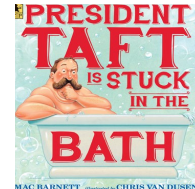
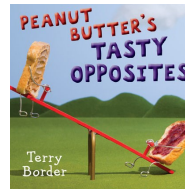
Working hand-in-hand with the Great Start Collaborative members, the GSPC consists of parents and caregivers of children under 12. The GSPC is dedicated to informing and shaping early childhood initiatives, and helping families raise children who are supported and prioritized. Every coalition meeting 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.



Read and Rap To Your Barber Program

Promoting literacy one book and haircut at a time. Join us on **Monday December 9th** at PrimeTime Barbershop. We will be handing out books and information on literacy in collaboration with Perry the barber. You can also get free haircuts every Monday from 5:15-7:15! Be sure to support this effort!

Reading Recommendations Check out these books from your local library!



Great Start Parent Coalition

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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



December GSPC Meeting

Parents Partnering For Change



Join us as we have a night filled with fun and engaging activities that empower you as a parent leader!

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

The meeting will be December 12th 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.

Healthy Kid Dental

The Healthy Kids Dental program (HKD), administered in part by Delta Dental, helps Michigan children under the age of 21 with Medicaid have healthy, happy smiles—at no

cost to you. Click the link to find a participating dentist near you. [FREE DENTAL CARE](#) Over 80% of dentists participate and accept Healthy Kids Dental!

