

About Child Development

A child's earliest years - from birth through age 5 - are a time of extraordinary growth and development. Some of the basics of what happens developmentally in their earliest years:

Social/Emotional Development Children begin to form relationships and get emotional signals from the adults in their world. Children use these signals to determine who they can trust to meet their needs and to learn how to express and control themselves in healthy ways.

Cognitive Development Children develop the ability to understand, think about the world around them, and solve problems. Cognition and general knowledge includes both how children think and what children know.

Physical Development Children gain greater control over how they move and what they can do with their bodies and progressively learn how to take care of their bodies in healthy and safe ways.

Language Development Children learn about what words mean and how to form them, how to use words to convey meaning, and how to understand and use printed materials. As children acquire language, they gain the ability to express ideas, share them with others, and respond to the actions and ideas of other people.

Great Start Collaborative-Oakland works every day to help Oakland County's young children get ready for school and life. We have a responsibility to build a sustainable system in our communities to support young children and families. We are committed to providing both parents and the public with early learning information, services and support.

Emergent brain research and economic studies have shown that investing in early childhood education promotes the best possible outcomes for children, families and the economy.

Every day, we are honored to take action that inspires the world to discover, love and nurture the greatness in all children.



A partner of the
Early Childhood Investment Corporation

For parenting resources and support,
call 1.888.64.YOUTH

www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org



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What can I do to help a child today?



Their
Future...

My
Responsibility

What can I do to help a child today?



That's *not* just a question for parents *or* child caregivers.

Each of us have a shared responsibility for creating the most child-friendly county in Michigan - a safe, healthy county where our youngest citizens can learn, grow and realize their full potential.

Take the time today - and every day - to help a child in your life.



Here are some ideas:

- Practice compassion in your life. *Children will notice.*
- Read to a child. *Children will connect.*
- Praise a parent. *Children will thrive.*
- Donate a copy of a children's book you love to a children's program. *Children will read.*
- Remind a child that everyone makes mistakes. *Children will relate.*
- Turn up the music and dance with a child in your life. *Children will move.*
- Ask a child about his day and really listen to his answer. *Children will talk.*
- Volunteer at schools. *Children will succeed.*
- Sing in the car with a child. *Children will smile.*
- Know how your community invests in early childhood. *Children will benefit.*
- Make history come alive. Talk to a child about your history. *Children will learn.*
- Let a child help with simple chores. *Children will be responsible.*
- Give a child a notebook and encourage him to start a journal. *Children will be expressive.*
- Play with a child. *Children will grow.*

For more information about how you can help a child today:
www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org