

## Why are High-Quality Early Childhood Programs Important?

Studies have shown that high-quality early childhood programs leads to:

- Improvement in child educational performance includes higher test scores, reductions in special education, grade retention, and school drop-outs.
- Increases in high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates.
- Reductions in juvenile delinquency and criminal activity later in life.
- Higher earnings and tax revenue by child and parent.
- Reductions in welfare use.
- Reductions in child abuse.
- Lower absenteeism rates for working parents.
- Adults who participate in the workforce with relatively higher rates of productivity.



(Lessons Learned: A Review of Early Childhood Development Studies, Jean Burr, Ph.D. and Ron Grunewald, 2006)

## How Can You Participate?

- Join the Parent Coalition. The list of meetings is available on our website on the parent page.
- Join a Great Start subcommittee.
- Reach others with the message that the early years of child development are important.
- Advocate for new laws and policies, support our youngest citizens.
- Become a champion for the importance of the early childhood years.
- Partner with early childhood services and resources by:
  - Providing in-kind supports
  - Volunteering
  - Funding

*For further information:*

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A partner of the  
Early Childhood Investment Corporation

**Great  
Starts  
Here!**

[www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org](http://www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org)



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***Safe, Healthy and  
Ready to Succeed***



***Their Future...  
Our Responsibility***

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.



**For parenting resources and support,  
call 1.888.64.YOUTH**

**[www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org](http://www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org)**

## What is a Comprehensive Early Childhood System?

A comprehensive early childhood system is a single, interconnected network of public and private services and supports to accomplish better results for young children and families.

Essential components are:

**Health Care** - Comprehensive health services for all children as well as timely and appropriate referrals for children with developmental and behavioral concerns.

### **Social-Emotional Health Care**

Specialized child development and mental health services designed to promote the social-emotional well-being of all young children and address the needs of children who are at risk of developing mental health problems.

### **Parent Education and Family Support**

Supports parents in the critical role they play in nurturing the well-being, safety, and overall development of their children.

**Early Care and Education** - Families have access to high quality early care and education services so that children are ready to succeed in school and life.

**Basic Needs, Economic Security and Child Safety** - Infants and young children live in safe families that are economically safe.

## What is the Great Start Parent Coalition?

The Great Start Parent Coalition is comprised of parents of children under the age of 12 who are residents of Oakland County.

Its purpose is to increase parent leadership, networking, knowledge and participation in early childhood planning and decision making for the county.

### **The Coalition:**

- Serves as the representative group of Oakland parents and assists the Great Start Collaborative in understanding the desires and needs of parents in the community.
- Assists in building public will and support for early childhood investments.
- Supports and is engaged in the assessment and strategic planning work of the Great Start Collaborative.
- Strengthens parent advocacy in the community, on behalf of young children.

*Need more information about Great Start Parent Coalition of Oakland?*

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