

Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative

Annual Report

FY 2023



The Great Start Collaborative is a group of local community partners and parents/caregivers who work together to meet the needs of the early childhood system, addressing the following areas:



- ★ Children are born healthy.
- ★ Children are healthy, thriving and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.
- ★ Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at time of school entry.
- ★ Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

Funding Sources

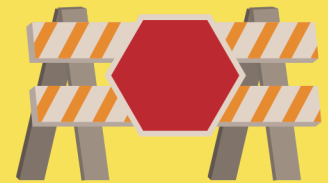
- Michigan Department of Education - 32p Block Grant, Literacy Hub Grant, Trusted Advisor Grant
- Hillsdale County Intermediate School District
- Hillsdale County Community Foundation
- Donations



3,000+



books provided to children



Barriers Addressed to Support Family Participation

- Provided **347** gas cards to assist with transportation
- Provided **465** meals and/or food gift cards
- Provided recordings of meetings for parents who work but still wanted to have a voice in Great Start Collaborative efforts

WWW.GREATSTARHILLSDALE.COM



Great Start Hillsdale County

Events



Summer PLAY Events
125 children • **61** families

StoryWalk®

130 children • **65** families

Themed Winter
Activities

104 children • **55** families



FREE FAMILY SAFETY FAIR

262 children • **194** adults • **127** families



Literacy Pop-Up's
189 children • **93** families

Child Care Forum
14 participants



Book Drive
Just over **19,225** used
children's book collected

Initiatives

Talking is Teaching
6 Book Nooks Installed
in community settings
190 Kits distributed for
at home learning



Hillsdale County
Kids Read
180 books provided
to local businesses

Child Care Start-Up Funding
supported opening **10** new
licensed child care homes



Little Free Library®

Take a Book. Share a Book.

8 Little Free Libraries with
roughly **850** books provided

Hillsdale County
Resource Guide
50+ pages



Books for Babies
260 bags distributed through
Hillsdale Hospital Birthing
Unit and the WIC Office

Welcome Baby
33 home visits provided

