



Great Beginnings

Ensuring a Great Start for all Hillsdale County Kids!

March/April 2017

Brought to you by
Great Start in partnership
with:



10 Good Reasons Your Child Should Attend Preschool

Preschool provides a foundation for learning both socially and academically that will help your child succeed in elementary school.

Source: <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/why-preschool/>



Preschool is an opportunity for growth.

It's an opportunity to learn share, follow instructions, and begin the foundation for learning that will occur in elementary school.

Preschool prepares children for kindergarten.

A high quality preschool program will allow children to develop skills that will help them to succeed in kindergarten.

Preschool promotes social and emotional development.

In order to learn, a young child needs to feel cared for and secure with a teacher or caregiver. A quality program will nurture the child and will help children learn social skills and emotional self-control.

The preschool environment is structured, although it may not appear that way.

A structured environment helps young children learn to make friends and play well with others. Classroom space is organized to encourage social interaction and minimize conflict.

Children get to make choices.

Children have several choices of activities; a child who is wandering aimlessly is encouraged to choose something that interests him or her.

Children learn to take care of themselves and others.



Children's sense of competence and self-worth grow as they learn to take care of themselves and help others.

Preschool promotes language and cognitive skills.

Children's language skills are nurtured in a "language rich" environment. Between the ages of 3 and 5, a child's vocabulary grows from 900 to 2,500 words, and sentences become longer and more complex.

Preschool teachers nurture a child's curiosity.

Teachers observe, ask questions and listen to children's ideas to encourage their curiosity and motivation to learn.

Preschool activities boost pre-math and literacy skills.

To prepare children for the academic demands of kindergarten teachers offer a wide variety of games and activities that help the child acquire the pre-math and literacy skills.

Preschool helps develop motor skills.

Activities are offered to help the child explore their surroundings and challenge themselves in new ways to develop stronger hand-eye coordination and balance.

What to do next?

Hillsdale County is having a county wide Preschool Connect on March 14th
Coming to this one day event is a great way to be able to get information about the different preschool options that our community offers. You can bring your child and learn about services and preschools available.

Hillsdale County Great Start

www.greatstarthillsdale.com

3471 Beck Rd.

Hillsdale, MI 49242

Stefanie Rathburn Great Start Director

517-437-0990 ext. 207

stefanie.rathburn@hillsdale-isd.org

Gina Fosdick Parent Liaison

616-254-7067

gina.fosdick@hillsdale-isd.org

~Upcoming Events~

**Great Families Coalition
Parent Meeting
"Setting Boundaries"
HCISD, Hayes Building
310 W Bacon Rd.
Hillsdale, MI
March 10th, 2017
12pm-2pm**

**Preschool Connect
Hillsdale Community Library
11 E Bacon Rd.
Hillsdale, MI
March 14th, 2017
3:30pm-6:30pm**

**Great Start Collaborative
Meeting
HCISD, Hayes Building
310 W Bacon Rd.
Hillsdale, MI
March 27th, 2017
April 24th, 2017
9am-11am**

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 1 Lego Club 4-5p WIC & (8a-4p) Immunization	2 Toddler & Baby Story Time 10:30a	3 Story Time 10:30a	4	5	6 Story Time 10:30a	7
8	9 Braden's Book Buddies 10:30a Story Time 10:30a-11:30a WIC 8a-4p	10 P.L.A.Y. 4:30p-6:30p @ Greenfield Story Time 6p-7p	11 WIC 11a-7p Immunizations 10am-6p Yoga Tots 4:30p	12 WIC 8a-4p Toddler & Baby Story Time 10:30a	13 Story Time 10:30a Great Families Coalition Meeting @ Hayes 12-2p Setting Boundaries	14
15	16 Braden's Book Buddies 10:30a Story Time 10:30a-11:30a WIC 8a-4p	17 WIC 8a-4p BPU Story Time 6p-7p Preschool Connect 3:30p-6:30p @ Hillside Community Library	18 WIC & (8a-4p) Immunizations Yoga Tots 4:30p	19 Toddler & Baby Story Time 10:30a	 Story Time 10:30a	20
21	22 Braden's Book Buddies 10:30a Story Time 10:30a-11:30a WIC 10a-4p 	23 P.L.A.Y. 4:30p-6:30p @ Greenfield Story Time 6p-7p	24 WIC 10a-6p Immunizations 9a-5p Yoga Tots 4:30p	25 WIC 8a-4p Toddler & Baby Story Time 10:30a	26	27
28	29  Great Start Collaborative @ the Hayes 9-11a Braden's Book Buddies 10:30a Story Time 10:30a-11:30a WIC 10a-6p	30 P.L.A.Y. 4:30p-6:30p @ Greenfield Story Time 6p-7p WIC 8a-4p BPU	31 WIC & (8a-4p) Immunizations Yoga Tots 4:30p	32 WIC 8a-4p Toddler & Baby Story Time 10:30a	33	34
Great Start/HISD Events 437-0990	Jonesville Library 849-9701	Camden Library 368-5554	Community Health Agency 437-7395	Hillside Library 437-6473	Other Agencies	

Events are listed by color—please match color to find a phone number for more information
 Further details are provided on our website: www.greatstarthillside.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday 1
2 	3 Braden's Book Buddies 10:30a Story Time 10:30a-11:30a WIC 8a-4p	4 Story Time 6p-7p	5 Yoga Tots 4:30p WIC & Immunizations 10a-4p Lego Club 4-5p	6 Toddler & Baby Story Time 10:30a WIC 8a-4p	7 Story Time 10:30a	8 
9	10 Story Time 10:30a-11:30a Braden's Book Buddies 10:30a WIC 8a-4p	11 WIC 8a-4p BPU Story Time 6p-7p	12 Yoga Tots 4:30p WIC 11a-7p Immunizations 10a-6p	13 Toddler & Baby Story Time 10:30a WIC 8a-4p	14 Story Time 10:30a	15
16 Happy Easter 	17 Story Time 10:30a-11:30a Braden's Book Buddies 10:30a WIC 8a-4p	18 P.L.A.Y. 4:30p-6:30p @ Greenfield Story Time 6p-7p	19 Yoga Tots 4:30p WIC & Immunizations 10a-4p	20 Toddler & Baby Story Time 10:30a	21 Story Time 10:30a	22
23	24 Great Start Collaborative @ Hayes 9-11a Braden's Book Buddies 10:30a Story Time 10:30a-11:30a WIC 8a-6p	25 WIC 8a-4p BPU Story Time 6p-7p P.L.A.Y. 4:30p-6:30p @ Greenfield	26 Yoga Tots 4:30p WIC (10a-6p) Immunization (9a-5p)	27 Toddler & Baby Story Time 10:30a	28 Story Time 10:30a 	29
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Great Start Collaborative Members:

The following Hillsdale County Agencies have joined the Great Start Collaborative to help give all young children in our county a GREAT START.

- Alpha-Omega Women's Center
- BHSJ Community Health Agency/Safe Kids
- CAPA (Child Abuse Prevention)
- Center for Family Health
- Child Care Network/Regional Resource Center
- Community Action Agency/Head Start/Early Head Start
- Community Grandparents & Parents
- Domestic Harmony
- Highfields
- Hillsdale Community Library
- Hillsdale Community Schools/GSRP
- Hillsdale County Department of Health & Human Services
- Hillsdale County ISD
- HUB Church
- Integro LLC
- Jonesville Community Schools/GSRP
- Karan Jenkins Co-op Preschool
- La Leche League
- Lifeways
- Litchfield Schools/GSRP
- Mary Randall Preschool
- MSU Extension
- North Adams-Jerome Schools/GSRP
- Pittsford Schools/GSRP
- Reading Community Schools/GSRP
- Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
- Waldron Schools/GSRP

Great Families Coalition

12:00-2:00p

Come and gather with other parents in our county for networking, training, and support.

September 23rd, 2016
November 11th, 2016
January 20th, 2017
March 10th, 2017
May 12th, 2017

Lunch and childcare will be provided.

HCISD Hayes Bldg | 310 W Bacon St
Hillsdale, MI 49242

RSVP to Gina Fosdick,
Parent Liaison,
616-254-7067 or by email
gina.fosdick@hillsdale-isd.org

The Great Start Collaborative in Hillsdale County zeros in on 5 points of the star while working together to improve services for children birth-3rd Grade:

Pediatric &
Family Health

Child Care & Early
Education



Family Support

Social &
Emotional Health

Growing Safe
Kids

P.L.A.Y Community Playgroup

(Parents Learning About Young Children)

P.L.A.Y. Groups are designed for parents and children.

Parents stay and play too!



Come and Join us!

(Free to parents and children birth-5 yrs)

Upcoming Playgroups @ Greenfield Schools:

Tuesdays Evenings from 4:30pm-6:30pm

March 7th, March 21st, March 28th,

April 18th, and April 25th

Children will learn to take turns and interact with others their same age. The interaction aids in language development, movement, learning and thinking skills all while they are playing.

In order to have enough supplies on hand please RSVP:

Nikki Henson, *HCISD*

517-437-0990 x100

nikki.henson@hillsdale-isd.org