



Great Start Collaborative & Parent Coalition

The Newaygo County Great Start Collaborative is a partnership of community leaders, business owners, health and human service agencies, charitable and faith-based organizations, educators, and parents.

The collaborative is committed to establishing and maintaining a comprehensive early childhood system.



The Newaygo County Parent Coalition is a devoted group, willing to take on leadership roles in the community, advocate for children, and provide input to the Great Start Collaborative.

It is made up of parents and caregivers of young children in Newaygo County and meets monthly at the Neway Center in Newaygo.

Families with children 0 - 12 years
231-652-3604



Early Childhood Programs



For more information visit
www.ncresa.org



Early On® is the system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers, birth to three years of age, with developmental delays and/or disabilities. Early On supports families as their children learn and grow.

Children can be evaluated if they experience delays or have a qualifying diagnosed medical condition.

Evaluations include:

- Developmental Assessment
- Hearing and Vision screening
- Input from the child's doctor
- Information reported by the parent



If evaluations show a child needs help, an Early On Service Coordinator will inform parents about health, educational, and social services resources and give information on how they can help their child grow and learn. Several agencies work together to meet a family's needs.

Children 0 - 3 years old
231-652-3843

Early On Playgroups

- ◇ Parents and Peeps Playgroup
- ◇ Socialization Playgroup
- ◇ Summer Transition Playgroup

Playgroups are designed to promote early development and to provide a strong foundation for learning through play and social interactions. Children are encouraged to play and explore in the following ways:

- Explore sound through music
- Develop imagination through painting
- Explore in the science center
- Develop early literacy skills
- Develop language skills by interacting with other children
- Develop gross motor skills

READY Kits

READY kits are distributed to families for infants, one-year olds, two-year olds, and three-year olds. Kits are designed to provide parents with information on child development and methods to enhance parent-child interaction. Kits include a book, music, CD, parent DVD, developmental milestones, activity cards, and items to promote access to needed community services.

READY kits are free of charge and are sent out periodically throughout the year. Call NC RESA to sign up and receive your free kits.

Children 0—3 years old
231-652-3843

Building Bridges Preschool Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is a state funded preschool program for four year old children with factors that may place them at risk of educational failure in their early years. Parents pay no fee for this preschool program. Teachers are certified in Early Childhood Education.

Researched based curriculum that includes literacy, numeracy, science, social studies, health, safety, motor and social development, music.

Developmental screening, by the NCRESA Early Childhood Team, is included as required in the Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Pre-kindergarten.

Children attend four days per week, Monday through Thursday. Half day options may be available upon request.

Children must meet eligibility factors that are required by the State.

Qualifying factors for GSRP may include:

- income
- child's development
- certain family circumstances
- school achievement of family members
- loss of a family member
- family health factors
- prior eligibility for Early On
- several others

Transportation is available for qualifying students.



Children 4 years old
231-652 1638 or 231-652-3683

Building Bridges Preschool (Tuition based)

This tuition based program offers the same services as the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for those students who do not qualify as at risk. Parents are offered a low cost tuition based preschool experience for their 3 or 4 year old child. Scholarships are available through a generous grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

Sessions are scheduled depending on the over-all needs of the preschool population each year. Tuition programs are available in all districts until sessions are full.

The learning environment and curriculum are also presented to help children achieve their individual Preschool Learning Outcomes through active play-based learning. These outcomes cover the areas of Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Social Skills and Technology, which are aligned with state and national standards.



Children 3 & 4 year olds
231-652 1638 or 231-652-3683

Newaygo County Parents As Teachers

Parents As Teachers (PAT) is a program offered to Newaygo County families that provides parents with child development knowledge and parenting support in their role as their child's first teacher. PAT is available to qualifying families with children birth through age 5, as well as pregnant mothers.

Certified parent educators provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life through monthly home visits and play group meetings.

Free services provided include:

- monthly visits by a certified parent educator
- parent group meetings
- newsletters of upcoming events
- screenings to assess child's development
- network that links families to other community resources

By understanding what to expect during each stage of development from infancy to the preschool years and beyond, parents can easily capture the teachable moments in everyday life to enhance their child's language development, intellectual growth, social development and motor skills.

Families with children 0- 5 years old
231-652-3843



Project Find provides information about special education programs and services and helps arrange free screening/evaluation. Children can be referred at any time. After evaluation results are available, staff will help to locate needed educational services.

Project Find looks for children from birth to kindergarten who have physical, social, emotional, or mental conditions that affect their educational performance. These conditions may make them eligible for free educational services.

Special Education Services

Special education evaluations are provided by NC RESA. Special education services are provided to children who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Those services and evaluations may be provided by an Early Childhood Specialist, Speech Therapist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, School Psychologist, or School Social Worker.

Services for Early On children, ages 0 – 3, are generally provided in the home. Services for children ages 3 - 5 are provided in the preschool setting. There is no charge to the family for these services.

Children 0 - 5 years old
231-652-3843 or 231-652-3683