

# Early Childhood Education for At-Risk Children

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We are a coalition of human service agencies, families and other partners working together to ensure every child from birth to eight in Ingham County has access to a universal, comprehensive and collaborative system of community-based early childhood programs, services and supports.

**The Ingham Great Start Collaborative (GSC)** is part of the Michigan Great Start

partnership with the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (**ECIC**) and the **Michigan Office of Great Start**.

# Michigan Early Childhood Outcomes

*Children are...*

- *Born healthy;*
- *Healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade;*
- *Developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry;*
- *Prepared to succeed in 4th grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade*



*as outlined by The Office of Great Start*

## Ingham GSC's 2018-21 Goals and Objectives

**Goal 1:** *Prenatal health care services are easy for families to access.*

**Objective 1:** Identify and reduce barriers (transportation, childcare, parents' work schedules and doctors' office hours) to accessing prenatal health care services.

**Objective 2:** Increase knowledge of and access to health care benefits and other supportive services for prenatal health care.

**Goal 2:** *Parenting supports and services are reaching families who need them and are easy to access.*

**Objective 1:** Increase the supports and access to prevention services for families at risk of abuse and neglect.

**Goal 3:** *Promote a shared understanding of school readiness.*

**Objective 1:** Key information about school readiness reaches all families and early educators.

**Goal 4:** *Teachers have an understanding of fundamental skills for early literacy that lead to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency.*

**Objective 1:** Teachers from birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade have access and implement curriculum with fidelity.

We know the importance of high quality early childhood education and development, yet there are gaps and barriers.



- Supports and services for children from the very youngest ages
- Access to high quality early education so that all children can attend high quality early education programs
- Shared understanding of school readiness and foundational skills that impact 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading



## **Supports and services for children from the very youngest ages**

### **Ingham ISD Early On 2016/17**

- Ingham ISD processed 1063 referrals, an average of 3 to 5 referrals per work day
- 37 staff provided service to 963 children in the 12-month period of June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017
- Of the 963 children, 766 were eligible under Part C of IDEA and 197 were additionally eligible for Michigan special education

Recommendation: Begin appropriating state dollars to support Early On





**Access to high quality early education so that all children can attend high quality early education programs.**

[www.inghampreschool.org](http://www.inghampreschool.org)

### **3 year old gap**

- Data from inghampreschool.org shows that of the 1532 3-year olds that applied for preschool in the 2015-16 school year, 954 3-year olds (including 406 non-Hispanic blacks and 148 Hispanics) were not enrolled into any preschool program.

### **Income eligibility**

- Anecdotal data from families slightly above income eligibility for programs. Families can't afford childcare/preschool or there are waiting lists.

### **Program options**

- Barriers like transportation, before and after school care, local school districts' school of choice policies, etc. exist for families when they are eligible.

## Recommendations:

- Increase the eligibility threshold for the Child Development and Care program to 150% FPL to make more families eligible for subsidies.
- Fund 2Gen programs (education and job training for parents, high quality early childhood education for children, and comprehensive wraparound services) and use 2Gen lens for existing programs
  - Expand evidence-based home visiting services to ensure all eligible families can access them





Ingham Intermediate  
School District  
*A Regional Educational Service Agency*

## **Shared understanding of school readiness and foundational skills that impact 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading**

- Over 1/3 of Michigan children start kindergarten unprepared
- 67% of Ingham ISD Kindergarteners meeting Phoneme Segmentation Fluency Benchmark on AIMSweb– Winter 2016
- Children who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely than their proficient peers to fail to graduate high school on time
- 51.6% of Ingham ISD 3<sup>rd</sup> graders w/partial or not proficient in M-STEP ELA assessment in 2016



Children learn many different skills in the following areas that will help them be prepared to succeed in kindergarten. Some of these skills include:

#### Language Development

- Answering questions about a story you've read together
- Taking two or more turns in a conversation
- Using words learned from stories, experiences and conversations
- Being understood by most people when speaking
- Using I, he, she, him, her, his, and hers correctly

#### Literacy Development

- Playing with sounds in words (rhyming, beginning sounds)
- Identifying 18 upper case and 15 lower case letters and some of the sounds they make
- Recognizing his or her own written name
- Looking at a book front to back and turns the pages one at a time
- Writing his or her first name beginning with a capital and finishing with lowercase

#### Mathematical Development:

- Counting out loud to 20
- Pointing to and using one number name for each object up to 10
- Identifying numbers 1-10
- Identifying basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle, diamond, oval)
- Creating a two part pattern (green, white, green, white)
- Sorting objects by something they have in common (color, size, shape etc.)

#### Physical Development

- Jumping with two feet
- Using a tripod grasp (thumb and two fingers) to write or draw a letter, numeral, or shape
- Using child size scissors

#### Social Development

- Trusting other adults and children
- Playing with, not just next to, other children
- Learning and participating in a group

#### Emotional Development

- Separating from primary caregiver for an extended period of time
- Taking care of his or her own needs (i.e. wiping after toileting, washing hands)
- Controlling the expression of his or her feelings
- Being aware of their own and others' personal space

#### Approaches to Learning

- Showing curiosity and motivation to learn new things
- Spending 10-15 minutes work on independent tasks
- Focusing and concentrating on an activity for 10-15 minutes (i.e. listening to story)
- Remembering and connecting experiences with environment (grocery store, library)
- Following two step directions and remembering simple routines
- Sticking with and solving simple problems (i.e. putting together a puzzle)



# Where Can I Find These Tools?



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## SCHOOL READINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the School Readiness Advisory Committee is to work collaboratively with community agencies and families to ensure that children and families are provided with information and tools to successfully enter school; that schools are prepared for children and families; and community resources are aligned to support children, families and schools.

### UPDATED DOCUMENTS:

- [Ingham Early Learning Calendar](#)
- [Kindergarten Readiness Packet \(September 2016\)](#)
- [School Readiness Advisory Committee Letter to Families \(July 2016\)](#)
- [List of Kindergarten Skills](#)



## 2017-18 INGHAM PRESCHOOL APPLICATION FORM

Access and submit the application online  
(click the image below):



<http://inghamgreatstart.org/school-readiness/>

### Recommendations:

- Support opportunities for parents to build literacy skills
- Support opportunities for family engagement and parent voice

# Ingham Great Start Collaborative

Every child ready to succeed in school and in life.



## Michigan Early Childhood Outcomes:

- 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.

## Your Involvement Matters!

Community members and parents of children under the age of 12 who reside in Ingham County are needed as representatives for the Great Start Collaborative to:

- Serve as leaders to elevate the role of early childhood education.
- Engage in opportunities to learn more about how early childhood impacts children, families, and the community.
- Promote and increase awareness among families about resources.
- Talk to public officials, other families, employees, and the public about the vital role quality early childhood care and education plays in current and future workforce development.

Ingham Great Start Collaborative meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month from 1:00 – 3:30 pm at Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing, MI. For more information, contact Michelle Nicholson at (517) 244-1384 or Wendy Boyce at (517) 244-1246, or email [inghamgsc@gmail.com](mailto:inghamgsc@gmail.com).