

Accomplishments over the first three years included:

Child Care and Early Education

- Development of an Eaton County recommended book list brochure entitled “Looking for a good book to share with your infant, toddler, or preschooler?”
- Collaboratively provided parents, child care provider, and agency staff trainings that focused on child abuse, effects of trauma, behavioral issues, emotion coaching, County Bench Marks, science, literacy, health issues, brain development, CPR/First Aid, Conscious Discipline, Creative Curriculum, and safe sleep.
- Acknowledging the importance of child care providers with a Provider Tea that included training hours for child care licensing.
- Child Care Center Crib Swap to provide centers with cribs that meet the new laws, and state licensing requirements
- Provide parent-child activities and events that foster early learning and provide parents with replicable ideas:
 - Early Childhood Literacy Weeks Character events
 - Early Childhood Author visit
 - Fun to Be Me
 - Toddler Time
 - Toddler Time in the Park
- Expand Great Start Readiness Preschool consortium in order to offer the preschool option to more children

Family Support

- Establishment of a cross-agency Parents As Teachers Home Visitation Program and began the Parents As Teachers program in Eaton County
- Established trained car seat safety technicians within Eaton Great Start and secured car seats to provide families with safe transportation options
- Work with local community action teams in each community to provide local supports, events, and activities for families with young children

- Participation in Project Homeless Connect to provide resources, information, and child activities
- Provide opportunities for parents that give information and connect them with resources:
 - Early Childhood Literacy Weeks Character events
 - Early Childhood Author Visits
 - Placemats for month of the young child at local restaurants
 - Eaton County Fair Booth
 - Local parades/festivals
 - Fun to be Me
 - Toddler Time in the Park

Parent Leadership

- Realization of state-wide early childhood recognition through the efforts of our parents and partners
- Supported parents in attending legislative town meetings with policy makers within their local communities
- Support parents to attend state level advocacy efforts such as STAR Power and Sandbox Party events
- Worked with ECIC and television station to make PSA with local children featured with Jason Colthorp
- Organized a “Round Table” event, inviting individuals running for office to come and talk with parents and collaborative members
- Collaborated with local Kiwanis to provide Shots for Tots
- Provide opportunities for parents to learn about advocacy efforts and engage their participation:
 - Early Childhood Literacy Weeks Character Events
 - Early Childhood Author Visits
 - Placemats for month of the young child at local restaurants
 - Eaton County Fair Booth
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Pediatric and Family Health

- Development of “Keeping Your Family and Home Safe from Environmental Hazards” brochure that encompasses various safety issues including lead poisoning, second-hand smoke, mercury poisoning, safe drinking water, radon, and hand washing.
- Provided a training for child care providers and agency staff on enrolling children in Medicaid and MiChild.
- Advocated with partners for dental health options for families and saw the Dental Health Clinic become a reality
- Participation in regional safe sleep and infant mortality planning groups, with local implementation including information in Welcome Baby Bags, newspaper articles, and newspaper insert information.
- Developed the idea of having a children’s emphasis included at the Hayes Green Beach Health Fair and provided expertise and staffing to make it happen
- Collaborated with local Kiwanis to provide Shots for Tots
- Provide opportunities where parents can get information on issues and resources related to family health issues:
 - Early Childhood Literacy Character events
 - Early Childhood Author Visits
 - Placemats for month of the young child at local restaurants
 - Eaton County Fair Booth
 - Local parades/festivals
 - Fun to be Me
 - Toddler Time in the Park

Social Emotional Health

- Provided two sessions of “Challenging Behavior” training for child care providers and parents
- Held meetings regarding family violence concerns and collaborated with domestic violence groups to present violence prevention and reporting training
- Provided early childhood perspective in the Mental Health Systems of Care meetings
- Provide opportunities where children can experience healthy social and emotional learning:

- Toddler Time
- Early Childhood Literacy Character events
- Early Childhood Author Visits
- Placemats for month of the young child at local restaurants
- Eaton County Fair Booth
- Local parades/festivals
- Fun to be Me
- Toddler Time in the Park

System Infrastructure (success that cross STAR areas and/or strengthen collaborative links)

- Development of a website that provides information to parents and partners
- Enhancement of a list serve and e-mail list that informs parents, community partners, and interested individuals
- Building of a Facebook page that provides current updates on events, information, and happenings
- Development of a brochure that describes the different “Great Start” entities in the county – Great Start Collaborative, Great Start Parent Coalition, Great Start Readiness Preschool, and Great Parents Great Start Parent Education.
- Continued support from the County Juvenile Justice millage for early childhood despite economic challenges
- Development of a Three-Year-Old Preschool Scholarship Fund supported by local businesses, individuals, foundations, and grants.
- Realization of state-wide early childhood recognition through the efforts of our parents and partners
- Provided a business breakfast to engage business in the work of early childhood
- Provision of opportunities for networking and sharing in the collaborative spirit
- Collaborated with Barnes and Noble to do an annual bookfair fundraiser during the holiday season
- Formed connections with local chambers and business organizations

- Participated in the Eaton County Frontline Workers committee to offer quality collaborative training opportunities that would be available for all Eaton County frontline workers
- Work collaboratively to provide a quarterly newspaper insert that meets the needs of multiple partners regarding grant requirements to inform the public and provide information to parents
- Collaboratively develop a communications plan to provide local newspapers with articles that inform the community on topics that are of priority across systems and areas
- Support multi-county and state advocacy and programmatic initiatives – STAR Power, Sandbox Party, League of Women Voters events, Community Forum in Okemos, multi-county Parent Coalition events,
- Developed a Family Friendly Business initiative to recognize businesses that go above and beyond to make families with young children feel welcome