



Great Start Ready Kids

At the end of a successful preschool experience, a typical child entering kindergarten has these kinds of skills:

Social and Emotional

- Identifies and expresses feelings, calms themselves, shows patience, recognizes the feelings of others.
- Follows directions and cooperates with teacher and school staff.
- Beginning to understand that their actions have consequences.
- Establishes positive relationships, makes friends, and likes to talk and carry on conversations.
- Shares toys and other materials, takes turns and resolves problems.
- Puts toys away and helps with family chores.
- Takes care of own needs and asks for help when needed. Able to feed themselves, brush their teeth, comb hair, dress themselves, etc.
- Takes initiative and is curious and willing to try new things.
- Can be away from parents and looks forward to going to school.

Physical

- Is able to gallop, run, skip, hop, swing, and climb. Can bounce, catch and throw a ball. Can hop on one foot and walk in a straight line.
- Can walk down stairs using alternate feet and walk backwards. Can stand on one foot for 5 to 10 seconds.
- Can hold a pencil, crayon or marker, and scissors to draw, write and cut. Can paste pictures on paper. Enjoys drawing and writing.
- Able to build with blocks, form shapes out of clay or play dough, can thread beads on a string, and complete simple puzzles.

Kids need:

- ◇ Warm, loving and nurturing relationships with adults.
 - ◇ Encouragement and recognition for doing the right thing.
 - ◇ Healthy meals and snacks every day that include fruits and vegetables.
 - ◇ Regular doctor and dentist visits.
 - ◇ A healthy sleep schedule (young children need at least 10 hours of sleep a night).
 - ◇ Time to run, play, and exercise at least one hour per day.
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These materials have been developed by the Huron County Great Start Collaborative under a grant provided by the Michigan Department of Education.

Huron Intermediate School District, 1299 South Thomas Road, Bad Axe MI 48413
www.greatstarthuron.com ~ 989-269-3485

Language

- Able to use words to express wants and needs in everyday communication.
- Can have a conversation, make up stories, using a range of vocabulary (about 1500 words).
- Asks and answers who, what, where, and when questions. Responds appropriately to questions asked.
- Able to follow 3 step directions such as put your cup in the sink, put the ball in your room and get your coat on.
- Is understood by most people. Uses complete sentences and correct grammar.
- Tells stories with detail including time and place.
- Gaining confidence in starting conversation and responding when talking with peers and adults.
- Uses acceptable language, maintains eye contact and does not interrupt.

Cognitive

- Shows eagerness to learn and is interested in new things.
- Can make a plan and follow through.
- Can stay focused on a task and ignore most distractions.
- Knows colors and identifies body parts and knows what each part does.
- Is able to think about possible solutions to problems and is able to change plans if a better idea is proposed.
- Reflect on their ideas.
- Sorts objects by multiple characteristics (for example by size, by color).
- Plans and uses actions and drawings in play to represent ideas. Interacts with other children in pretend play.
- Understands the order of daily routines such as breakfast before lunch, lunch before dinner, etc.

Literacy

- Able to recognize at least 10 letters and the sounds they make, especially those in their own name. Makes correct sounds for 10-20 letters.
- Beginning to understand that letters make words and words make sentences.
- Recognizes and says simple rhymes. Recognizes distinct sounds when language is spoken.
- Can recognize words that begin with the same sound and words with different sounds.
- Enjoys stories that are read, holds book correctly, turns pages from front to back, knows that sentences are read from left to right, and pretends to read.
- Retells stories, asks and answers questions from the text, and refers to pictures.
- Recognizes stop signs, store signs and other print they are exposed to frequently.
- Is able to write their name and other meaningful words.
- Draws pictures and is able to tell you about it.



As a parent I commit to:

- ◇ Reading to my child at least 20 minutes per day.
- ◇ Having books in my house which my child enjoys and uses often.
- ◇ Limiting the amount of my child's screen time (television, computers, etc.) to no more than one hour per day.

Mathematics

- Verbally counts to 20, can count 10-20 things correctly,
- Identifies more, less and equal amounts of objects.
- Identifies 5-10 numbers by name and can identify a group of objects representing that number.
- Identifies, names and describes shapes.
- Follows simple directions related to: in, on, under, up, down, beside, and between.
- Compares and measures smaller, bigger, longer, shorter, heavier, lighter.
- Copy simple, repeating patterns and can make their own pattern.
- Children express what and represent what they observe, think, imagine and feel through pretend play.

Science and Technology

- Asks many questions, likes to explore and has a curious mind.
- Explores materials and activities using the five senses: hearing, sight, smell, taste, and touch.
- Holds basic understanding of the natural world (rain is wet, sun is hot, snow is cold, humans have an impact on their natural world).
- Knows the difference between living and nonliving things.
- Observes the outside world and can explain simple natural concepts (leaves change colors in the fall, water and sun make plants grow in the summer, snow melts and turns to water).
- Has had exposure to technology as a learning tool and is able to use basic functions of a computer or other technology to complete tasks.
- Experiment to test their ideas.
- Predict what they expect will happen.
- Draw conclusions based on their experience and observations.

Social Studies

- Knows that people have different roles and function in the community and within a family.
- Understands that people have different interests, characteristics and abilities.
- Recognize places and locations and their purpose (grocery store is where you buy groceries, library is where you check out books).
- Understand past, present and future.
- Understand the importance of taking care of their environment.

If you are concerned about your child's development, don't worry but don't wait! Call 989-269-3484 for a free developmental assessment, called Project Find.

As a parent I commit to:

- ◇ **Introducing my child to age-appropriate technology to expand their learning.**
- ◇ **Not exposing my child to adult media or other influences that are not age-appropriate (violent or other adult-oriented movies, tv shows, images, etc.).**



- ◇ **Laugh with and enjoy my child every day!**

Huron County Great Start Collaborative

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Preparing young children for success
in kindergarten and beyond!



Will your child be ready for kindergarten? We can help!

Head Start and Great Start Readiness Programs provide tuition free preschool for those who qualify.

We provide:

- Classes four days per week in a safe learning environment.
- Full day sessions available.
- Experiences that will help your child develop social/emotional, physical, and academic skills and a love for learning.
- Opportunities for parent involvement.
- Outdoor play and nutritious meals and snacks.
- Free transportation for those who are eligible.

A child with a quality preschool experience is more likely to be prepared for kindergarten and have ongoing success in school.

Locations include:

- ◆ Bad Axe at the Huron Learning Center
- ◆ Caseville Elementary
- ◆ Harbor Beach Elementary
- ◆ Laker Elementary
- ◆ North Huron Elementary
- ◆ Owen-Gage Elementary
- ◆ Ubyly Elementary

To apply for one of these preschools or to see if your child qualifies for free preschool call 989-269-6533 or go to www.greatstarthuron.com to apply online or view the income eligibility guidelines. For other questions call the Great Start Collaborative office at 989-269-3485.

Looking for Child Care or a Tuition Base Preschool?

www.greatstarttoquality.org is your free, 24/7, online database of licensed child care and preschool programs in Michigan. Log on and begin your search for quality child care or tuition based preschool in your area.

