

WHAT DO HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS PROVIDE?

- ⇒ Experiences that prepare children for school success.
- ⇒ Opportunities to develop self confidence and independence.
- ⇒ Experiences that develop social and communication skills.
- ⇒ Literacy activities and skills that prepare children for learning to read.
- ⇒ Math and science experiences to develop critical thinking skills.

To learn more about what "high quality" looks like go to www.greatstarttoquality.org.

Looking for parenting resources, family support programs or fun activities to do with your young children? Go to www.greatstarthuron.com.



This information is brought to you by the Huron County Great Start Collaborative, a project of the Huron Intermediate School District and the Michigan Department of Education.

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HURON COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD & SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS

Preparing young children for success in school and in life!



Information in this brochure:

- Free and low cost preschool
- Tuition based preschool
- Licensed child care
- School readiness skills



FREE PRESCHOOL FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY

HEAD START

is a tuition-free preschool program (for those who qualify) funded by the federal government for children 3-5 years of age and their families. There are a limited number of over-income slots.

Locations include:

- Bad Axe @ the Huron Learning Center
- Caseville Elementary
- Harbor Beach
- Laker Elementary
- North Huron Elementary
- Unionville-Sebewaing Elementary

Head Start provides:

- ⇒ Half or full day preschool sessions, 4 days per week
- ⇒ Breakfast and snack served at a.m. sessions, lunch and snack served at p.m. sessions
- ⇒ Transportation (where available)
- ⇒ Parent-teacher conferences
- ⇒ Home visits
- ⇒ Vision, hearing and health screenings
- ⇒ Dental services and nutrition education
- ⇒ Behavior management coaching
- ⇒ Parent leadership opportunities
- ⇒ Referrals to community resources

GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM

(GSRP) is a tuition-free preschool program (for those who qualify) funded by the state government for children who are 4 years of age (by September 1, 2015). There are a limited number of over-income slots available at a low cost (determined by a sliding fee scale).

Locations include:

- Bad Axe @ the Huron Learning Center
- Caseville Elementary
- Harbor Beach
- North Huron Elementary
- Owen-Gage Elementary

GSRP provides:

- ⇒ Half or full day preschool sessions, 4 days per week
- ⇒ Snacks served at half day sessions, snacks and lunch served at full day sessions
- ⇒ Transportation
- ⇒ Parent-teacher conferences
- ⇒ Home visits
- ⇒ Parent classroom involvement
- ⇒ Lending library
- ⇒ Family days/nights
- ⇒ Behavioral interventions
- ⇒ Referrals to community resources

To see if your child qualifies for any of these free or low cost preschools call 989-269-6533. One phone call gets you access to all of these options!

PRESCHOOLS—THAT CHARGE TUITION

- Creative Connections: 989-453-4600
- Cross Lutheran, Pigeon: 989-453-3331
- Kids World, Bad Axe: 989-269-9284
- Our Savior Lutheran, Bad Axe: 989-269-7642
- St John's Lutheran, Pigeon: 989-453-2861
- St John's Lutheran, Port Hope: 989-428-4811

CHILD CARE & PRESCHOOL CENTERS

- Discovery Center, Pigeon: 989-453-2111
- Early Years, Bad Axe: 989-269-2383
- Our Lady of Lake Huron, Harbor Beach: 989-479-3427
- Sonshine Kids, Bad Axe: 989-269-8600
- USA Early Child Care, Unionville: 989-883-9139
- Zion Lutheran, Harbor Beach: 989-479-6400

CHILD CARE IN HOMES LICENSED FOR 12 CHILDREN

- Jennifer Bouverette, Bad Axe: 989-269-2880
- Bright Beginnings, Elkton: 989-553-3647
- Dianna Dubs, Pigeon: 989-453-3489
- Faye Errer, Owendale: 989-678-4105
- Kelly King, Caseville: 989-856-7342
- Lori Smith, Pigeon: 989-453-3953
- Terri Volmering, Bad Axe: 989-315-1770

The Great Start to Quality website, www.greatstarttoquality.org provides ratings for child care and preschool providers on a five star system; the more stars a provider has, the higher the quality.

CHILD CARE IN HOMES LICENSED FOR 6 CHILDREN

- Elizabeth Brilinski, Ubyly: 989-550-2670
- Elizabeth Brinkman, Gageton: 810-338-1798
- Holly Cooper, Harbor Beach: 989-315-1503
- Darcy's Daycare, Bad Axe: 989-975-9511
- Easy Growing CC, Sebewaing: 989-883-2922
- Sharon Epperson, Bad Axe: 989-269-2156
- Deborah Gothro, Bay Port: 989-977-0839
- Diana Kociba, Bad Axe: 989-269-9074
- Alyse Kozfkay, Port Austin: 989-738-8530
- Virginia Krozek, Bad Axe: 989-269-7419
- Mary Catherine Kuhl, Bay Port: 989-883-2667
- Debbie Lange, Pigeon: 989-453-3559
- Tammy Messing, Bad Axe: 989-269-3069
- Melissa Parrish, Bad Axe: 989-921-3140
- Patty's Daycare, Pigeon: 989-975-1171
- Richelle Ranquist, Bad Axe: 989-269-2743
- Constance Rochefort, Bad Axe: 989-315-1143
- Laura Siegfried, Pigeon: 989-856-4303
- Jennifer Stroka, Bad Axe: 989-315-4345
- Mary Kay Tennant, Pigeon: 989-453-2314
- Geraldine Voss, Port Austin: 989-738-7202
- Doris Ann Wisneski, Kinde: 989-874-6101

We do not endorse any particular child care or preschool. Only you can decide what is a good fit for your child and family!

WHAT IS SCHOOL READINESS?

Preparing your child to succeed in school is a big job. Great Start is here to support you in your role as your child's first and best teacher because we know that a child who enters school ready to learn is much more likely to do well in school, graduate high school and be a successful adult.

So, how do you know if your child is ready for school? Here are a few examples of behaviors and abilities that are typical for children entering Kindergarten:

Social and Emotional

- Cooperates well with others, makes friends, share toys.
- Expresses feelings, calms themselves, shows patience, recognizes the feelings of others.
- Beginning to respect the space of those around them.
- Likes to talk and carry on conversations.
- Beginning to understand that their actions have consequences.

Approaches to Learning

- Takes initiative and is curious and willing to try new things.
- Understands and obeys simple rules (most of the time).
- Understands the order of daily routines such as breakfast before lunch, lunch before dinner, etc.
- 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.

Physical Well-Being and Motor Development

- Is able to gallop, run, skip, hop, swing and climb. Can hop on one foot and walk in a straight line.
- Uses eating utensils skillfully. Can hold a pencil crayon or marker to draw and write.
- Able to build with blocks, form shapes out of clay or play dough, can thread beads on a string.
- Able to feed themselves, brush their teeth, comb hair, dress themselves with little help.

Speaking and Communication

- 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.
- Gaining confidence in starting conversation and responding when talking with peers and adults.

Cognitive and General Knowledge

- Asks questions and solves problems on their own or with minimal help.
- Able to recognize several letters, may be able to write their name.
- Beginning to understand that letters make words and words make sentences.
- Uses different writing tools, pencils, crayons, etc. and enjoys drawing and writing.
- Recognizes stop signs, store signs and other print they are exposed to frequently.