

Goal 1: Updated September 2009

Community awareness about the critical importance of quality child development from birth to age five, is at a high level.

Long Term Objectives:

Residents of Mecosta and Osceola Counties have an increased knowledge about child development from birth to age five.
Understanding of “What is quality?” and “Why is high quality early childhood education important?”

Short Term Objectives:

Community awareness about the critical importance of quality child development from birth to age five. GSC information will be sent to agencies, schools, newspapers, churches, etc.

Goal 2: Updated September 2009

Mecosta and Osceola Counties value children from birth to age five.

Long Term Objectives:

Community members from all sectors recognize their role in supporting children from birth to age five.
Family members, neighbors and child care providers are supported in their role as care providers for children from birth to age five.
Parenting support and education is established as a community norm. Parents are supported as their child’s first and most influential teacher.

Short Term Objectives:

Mecosta and Osceola Counties value children from birth to age five. Outreach events as shared in the Coalition Annual Plan and Family Friendly Workplace Awards increase community awareness.

Goal 3: September 2009

Children entering school in Mecosta and Osceola Counties are healthy, happy and ready to learn

Long Term Objectives:

Children from birth to age five are cared for in safe, nurturing environments that provide social, emotional, physical and intellectual development.
Families will have access to high quality, affordable childcare programs (preschool centers, family/group providers).
Children entering school in Mecosta & Osceola Counties are healthy, happy and ready to learn.

Short Term Objectives:

Quality rating/ improvement tool will be available for preschools and caregivers. Involve faith-based and tuition based programs in Preschool Partnership, and information sharing. Evaluate quality standards for child care and it's availability in Mecosta and Osceola Counties.
Physical, social and emotional health care service information is available to families.

Goal 4: Updated September 2009

The infrastructure necessary to implement the Great Start Collaborative System is fully in place

Long Term Objectives:

Support for early childhood is integrated into Mecosta and Osceola communities
Ensure involvement from all sectors of the community in early childhood activities
Engage families through the continuation of the Parent Coalition

Short Term Objectives:

Increase involvement and recruitment efforts with all sectors.
Identify all resources needed to invest in early childhood initiatives including financial commitments, human resources and intellectual capital
Continue engagement of all interested early childhood supporters in the implementation of the early childhood action agenda.

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Community awareness about the critical importance of quality child development from birth to age five, is at a high level.

Long Term Objectives:

Residents of Mecosta and Osceola Counties have an increased knowledge about child development from birth to age five. Understanding of "What is quality?" and "Why is high quality early childhood education important?"

Short Term Objectives:

Community awareness about the critical importance of quality child development from birth to age five. GSC information will be sent to agencies, schools, newspapers, churches, etc.

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person(s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Completed X Design a communications plan that will result in early childhood initiatives being a priority for Mecosta and Osceola Counties</p>	<p>X Create a Communications Committee X Design a campaign that frames and defines the issue- with template provided by the ECIC X Campaign builds awareness about early childhood needs X Implement the campaign</p>	<p>X Written plan X Number of times/places early childhood issues are presenting in a public forum (2-3x/Mo.) X Support the local outreach component of the Star Power Day X GSC member newsletters will have an Early Childhood tag line to spark awareness</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative Communications Committee Staff and Members</p>	<p>Implementation Phase Year One (2007-8)</p>
<p>Completed X Resource Guide is available to the communities 211 system in Progress. Higher percentage of coverage with 211 due to possible barriers of car and internet.</p>	<p>X Services for families are listed X Contact information is current</p>	<p>X Agencies are contacted every six months to update information X Resource Guide includes the date of the last revision</p>	<p>Great Start Staff</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two (2008-9)</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person(s) Responsible	Target
<p>Ongoing... progress evident</p> <p>Collaborate with community to explore the benefits and possibility of bringing 2-1-1 information/resource call services to Mecosta and Osceola Counties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Community discussions held in both counties. ✘ Action Committee formed * MORE 211 Stakeholders- identify additional funding sources and commitments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ 6 County Collaboration ✘ Recourse Specialist hired ✘ Additional Funding in Process 	<p>Great Start Collaborative and Human Services Collaborative Bodies</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two/ Year Three (2009-10)</p>
<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Website will include current information about resources, Early Childhood trainings and Parent Coalition events, targeting families with children from birth to age five 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Update Website features monthly (Parent Coalition-Family Day, Better Kid Care workshops, etc.) ✘ Link to Collaborative partners web pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Website features events and trainings that pertain to children birth to five, and those who serve them ✘ Information on web page is evaluated every month and updated as required 	<p>Great Start Collaborative staff</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two</p>
<p>Ongoing... progress evident</p> <p>Establish relationships with government entities, pediatricians, and community groups who support and interact with families and caregivers of children from birth to age five</p> <p>* Pediatricians, Health Dept.— team with Early On and Health Services Advisory Committee, Reed City & Mecosta Spectrum Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Invite all sectors to become active members of the Great Start Collaborative & RC Spectrum, Mecosta Health Department. ✘ Provide information to link families to potential service providers ✘ Website link to Hospitals and Health Department. * Strengthen connection with Pediatricians and Health Service providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Collaborative membership includes all community sectors ✘ Developmental screenings information (Ages & Stages) at Dr offices & Health Department ✘ Health Services Advisory meeting updates are provided at the Great Start Collaborative meetings * Parent Resource and child development information in waiting rooms * Connect with FSU Burkham Health Center 	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two/ Year Three</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Completed...enhance efforts</p> <p>X Utilize all media outlets to market campaign message including: radio, TV, print, newspaper, flyers, banners, billboards, newsletters, and our Mecosta-Osceola Great Start Website</p>	<p>X GSC members will meet with local media leaders to seek their engagement in Collaborative activities.</p> <p>X GSC will encourage local media involvement on the GSC Communications Committee</p> <p>X Family Friendly Workplace award completed June 2009 .</p> <p>* GSC / Coalition will submit monthly Early Childhood news & activity updates to Agencies, Elementary Schools, Puplic & Parocial Pre-Schools, Newspapers, church bulletins, etc.</p> <p>* GSC website enhancement, Face Book, and Blog will be explored</p>	<p>X Great Start communications will be evident on local media and publications</p> <p>X Scrapbook by year 1-2-3</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative staff and Communication Committee</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two/ Year Three</p>

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Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Ongoing...progress evident</p> <p>Identify business and community who are interested or invested in working with early childhood initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X “Family Friendly Workplace” discussions with employers and/or Human Resources staff...and community awareness thru nomination forms X Business & Community EXPO in Big Rapids, Reed City, and Evart X Child care connections through 4-C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Chamber Lunch & Learn Family Friendly Workplace Award–2010 Outreach events: Family Day, EXPO, workshops, etc 	<p>Great Start Collaborative members, staff and Business Relations Officer</p>	<p>Implementation Phase Year One (2007-08) Year Two (2008-09) Year Three (2009-10)</p>
<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Establish collaboration with business, education, health and human service providers to build support for the needs of children and families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Increase awareness of System of Care and Family Centered Practices X Enhanced opportunities for Professional Development within the community X Outreach events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Increased awareness of needs and collaborative support for Families, through HSCB, Chamber and Health Services Advisory meetings 	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year One/ Year two)</p>
<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Identify existing parent and/or care provider networks in Mecosta and Osceola Counties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Encourage involvement with the Great Start Collaborative and the Parent Coalition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Information included on Great Start web page & mailings X Include in Resource Guide *4-C’s Newsletter, BKC workshops 	<p>GSC staff</p>	<p>Year One</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Completed</p> <p>X Develop and implement a plan for Early Childhood policy maker education and advocacy activities</p>	<p>X Dissemination of information from ECIC Policy Affairs office to GSC members</p> <p>X Support for GSC staff and Parent Coalition and community members to attend the Star Power Day in Lansing</p> <p>X Two legislative education events for local elected officials, policy-makers and business</p>	<p>X Legislative information provided to GSC</p> <p>X Attendance at Star Power Day in May of 2009</p> <p>X Legislative education opportunities for local elected officials, policy makers and business: Osceola Advocacy with Rep Booher– Jan 09, BR, RC & Evert Expos, Family Day, River Days and Crossroads event.</p>	<p>Great Start members, staff and Business Relations Officer</p>	<p>Year One Year Two</p>
<p>Ongoing... progress evident</p> <p>Support workplaces, educational institutions and health and human service agencies working with early childhood initiatives through the use of marketing materials, training information and resources</p>	<p>X Family Friendly Award educational nominating form in free Tri-County paper, Osceola & Mecosta Newspapers, Chamber News, radio, emails, The Pioneer, etc</p> <p>Continue in Year Three</p>	<p>X Resource Guides and FFW Presentation provided to HR committee</p> <p>X Better Kid Care & Advocacy</p> <p>X Resource Guides to HR</p>	<p>Great Start members, staff and Business Relations Officer</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two Year Three</p>
<p>Completed...enhance efforts</p> <p>X Establish formal recognition program that includes development of incentives for employers that achieve success in child/family friendly work environments</p>	<p>X Increase awareness of “Family Friendly Workplace”</p> <p>X Annual award for “Family Friendly” business practices</p> <p>Increase volunteerism and support for early childhood initiatives</p> <p>X Email letter & Survey</p>	<p>Information shared throughout the community</p> <p>Annual award for “Family Friendly” business practices (employee nominations)</p>	<p>Great Start members, staff and Business Relations Officer</p>	<p>Year one/ Year Two Year Three</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Completed</p> <p>X Evaluate parenting support and education opportunities</p>	<p>X Identify existing parenting programs</p> <p>X Update the community Parenting Matrix</p>	<p>X Number , time and location of parenting classes available</p> <p>X Child care options during workshops</p> <p>X Number of parents attending</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative staff and members</p>	<p>Year One Year Two</p>
<p>Completed</p> <p>X Evaluate opportunities for social/emotional activities (playgroups, preschools, Better Kid Care) for families with young children</p>	<p>X Identify agencies currently providing these opportunities</p> <p>X Identify additional needs</p> <p>X Create a coordinated calendar of activities. Distribute & post on website</p>	<p>X Number, time and location of playgroups available</p> <p>X Number of parents attending</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative staff and members</p>	<p>Year One Year Two</p>

Goal 3: September 2009

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Long Term Objectives:

Children from birth to age five are cared for in safe, nurturing environments that provide social, emotional, physical and intellectual development. Families will have access to high quality, affordable childcare programs (preschool centers, family/group providers). Children entering school in Mecosta & Osceola Counties are healthy, happy and ready to learn.

Short Term Objectives:

Quality rating/ improvement tool will be available for preschools and caregivers. Involve faith-based and tuition based programs in Preschool Partnership, and information sharing. Evaluate quality standards for child care and it's availability in Mecosta and Osceola Counties. Physical, social and emotional health care service information is available to families.

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Ongoing... progress evident</p> <p>X Results of FSU class Survey completed in August 2009.</p> <p>Determine what "quality care" looks like for infants and toddlers & Preschool.</p>	<p>X Review Michigan childcare licensing standards</p> <p>* Review Kin care and foster care standards</p> <p>* Quality Rating / Improvement tool will be available for preschool and caregivers</p>	<p>X Pt/staff Survey</p> <p>Number of licensed childcare slots available (Kent 4-C)</p> <p>Number of foster care homes available—not only licensed—actively accepting.</p> <p>Quality care & pre K information is available to parents.</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Implementation Phase</p> <p>Year One (2007-08)</p> <p>Year Two (2008-09)</p> <p>Year Three (2009-10)</p>
<p>Completed</p> <p>X Explore ECIC Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) for Mecosta and Osceola County</p>	<p>X Review recommendations for the Michigan Child Care QRIS with ECIC and MI Association for the Education of Young Children</p>	<p>Number of local QRIS opportunities thru ECIC— NA due to lack of funding</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Completed...</p> <p>X Increase access to Professional Development trainings and supports for parents and caregivers</p>	<p>X Involvement with: Four C, MSU extension, DHS, Better Kid Care workshops</p> <p>X Provide child care options & light dinner</p>	<p>X Attendance and evaluations are tracked for future planning</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two</p>
<p>Completed...</p> <p>X Identify caregivers (parents, grandparents, etc.) to be trained as child care or foster parent providers</p>	<p>X Involvement with Department of Human Services and Eagle Village to promote awareness</p> <p>X Information available at community meetings, outreach events, web site, etc</p>	<p>X Advocate for foster care homes</p> <p>X Increased awareness of the need in the community</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year One</p>
<p>Completed</p> <p>X Encourage online classes that parents and caregivers can access from the home or library</p>	<p>X Promote FSU, Baker College and MSU Extension- Better Kid Care series workshop online classes.</p> <p>(link on GSC web site)</p>	<p>X Increased awareness of classes that are offered online</p> <p>X Links on Web Provided</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year One</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person(s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Ongoing... progress evident Create and implement a coordinated integrated campaign to educate the community about the consequences of childhood obesity.</p>	<p>X Advocate for healthy snack choices at schools- MSU Extension provided Snack info to preschool classrooms and encouraging recess before lunch.</p> <p>* Continue... Develop picture of future which includes unhealthy consequences, financially and health wise, with potential collaboration with MSU, the Community Health Department , and Yoplait.</p>	<p>X Awareness of the need to lower child obesity levels ...MSU provided info packets to Preschools and caregivers to provide nutrition education to staff and families... Also at HSAC & GSC meetings and website. Parents are aware of the importance of daily outdoor and large muscle activities (Secure Data) WIC has info. For age 2 and up Health Dept.—data is not readily available. Involvement with Health Services Advisory Committee & MSU Extension & School boards</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two Year Three</p>
<p>Ongoing... progress evident Social /emotional and physical health care Information is readily available to families with young children</p>	<p>X Children have a regular Doctor and a “medical home” resulting in fewer trips to the emergency room</p> <p>X Families seek treatment for social / emotional health care as needed *with referrals</p>	<p>Increased awareness of the importance of emotional health: NEMCSA, BKC workshops, CMH, counselor services available at preschool programs</p> <p>* CMH link through website. *Head Start Requirement *Dental Clinic is now available</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two Year Three</p>
<p>Completed X Improve transitions into Preschool and Kindergarten programs</p>	<p>X Collaboration with school staff</p> <p>X Identify teacher / program enrollment expectations</p> <p>X Collaboration thorough Preschool Partnership and Joint enrollment</p>	<p>X Enrolment information and expectations are available to parents</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person(s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Ongoing... progress evident</p> <p>Develop a recruitment and enrollment process to include Head Start, Early Head Start, Great Start Readiness Programs, community and faith based preschool programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Evaluate existing procedures and update the Preschool Partnership Plan X Meeting schedule established. X Contact information reviewed Invite Faith and Tuition Based preschool programs to Preschool Partnership and GSC meetings 	<p>Enrollment process will be less confusing to parents</p> <p>Dual enrollment situations will be less frequent</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year Two (2008-09) Year Three</p>
<p>Completed... enhance efforts</p> <p>X Increase community preschool programs for three year old children.</p>	<p>X Evaluation of existing play group and preschool options that are available to the three year old population</p>	<p>X Additional three year old options are available through playgroups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Encourage faith-based information sharing and integration * Identify resources for parents who don't qualify for HS or GSRP. 	<p>Great Start Collaborative members and staff</p>	<p>Year Two (2008-09) Year Three</p>

Goal 4: Updated September 2009

The infrastructure necessary to implement the Great Start Collaborative System is fully in place

Long Term Objectives:

- Support for early childhood is integrated into Mecosta and Osceola communities
- Ensure involvement from all sectors of the community in early childhood activities
- Engage families through the continuation of the Parent Coalition

Short Term Objectives:

- Increase involvement and recruitment efforts with all sectors.
- Identify all resources needed to invest in early childhood initiatives including financial commitments, human resources and intellectual capital
- Continue engagement of all interested early childhood supporters in the implementation of the early childhood action agenda.

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Completed</p> <p>✘ Sustain diversity (that reflects the make up of the community) of GSC members and continuity of leadership</p>	<p>✘ Monitor board attendance, and assess satisfaction with meeting and progress</p>	<p>✘ Number of board members</p> <p>Level of board member satisfaction</p> <p>Parent/business/government involvement Survey / interview</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative staff and members</p>	<p>Implement action Phase Year One (2007-08)</p>
<p>Completed</p> <p>✘ Implement a community communications plan that will result in early childhood initiatives being a priority for Mecosta and Osceola Counties</p>	<p>✘ Create a Communications Committee</p>	<p>✘ Implementation of communication plan with annual updates</p> <p>✘ Communication Committee report on GSC agenda</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative Communication Committee & Coordinator</p>	<p>Year One</p>
<p>Ongoing... progress evident</p> <p>✘ Identify communication mechanism between parent coalition and committees</p>	<p>✘ Parent Liaison reports on work of coalition at the GSC meetings, 6 times per year</p> <p>* Coalition and GSC Parent Representative meetings are scheduled</p>	<p>✘ Committees are informed and updated on the work of the parent coalition</p> <p>* Communication between groups is on going.</p>	<p>Coordinator Parent Liaison</p>	<p>Year one/ Year two (2008-09)</p> <p>Year Three (2009-10)</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person(s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Ongoing...</p> <p>✘ Identify parents representing diversity (that reflects the make up of the community) to be involved with the Coalition, Great Start Collaborative and workgroups</p>	<p>✘ Evaluation of community diversity</p> <p>✘ Develop info to recruit parents... Include Crossroads & Faith based</p> <p>✘ Utilize a variety of avenues to assist with recruitment: such as GSRP & Head Start mailings, Child Care center flyers to parents, Church Bulletins, Elem School newsletters, Libraries, outreach events, Boo Bags, Water Bill flyers, GSC website, face book, etc</p>	<p>✘ Member agencies encourage parent s to participate</p> <p>✘ Parent participation is evident</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative staff and members</p>	<p>Year One Year Three</p>
<p>Completed...enhance efforts</p> <p>✘ Provide parent leadership training</p>	<p>✘ Review parent leadership training opportunities and encourage attendance at BKC and Advocacy Workshops, etc</p> <p>✘ Schedule trainings</p>	<p>* Increase parent member attendance</p>	<p>Great Start Coordinator Parent Liaison and Parent Members</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two Year Three</p>
<p>Completed</p> <p>✘ Ensure information from meetings shared with agency staff</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>✘ GSC participants encouraged to share information with staff</p> <p>✘ Minutes from meetings, information placed on GS website & emails</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>✘ Information thru emails</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative staff and members</p>	<p>Year One</p>
<p>Ongoing...</p> <p>Identify financial resources to sustain the local Great Start Collaborative</p>	<p>Identify collaborative or new funding sources for identified priorities</p> <p>Determine grants to be submitted</p>	<p>New resources identified</p>	<p>Great Start Collaborative staff and members</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two/ Year Three</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Measurements	Person(s) Responsible	Target Date
<p>Completed X Completion of the local Finance Mapping template, provided by the ECIC</p>	<p>X Establish Finance Mapping Committee</p> <p>X Assign tasks to committee Members</p> <p>X FSU intern assigned to complete Finance Mapping Project</p>	<p>Template completed and submitted to ECIC before September 30, 2009.</p>	<p>Great Start Coordinator Finance Mapping Committee</p>	<p>Year One/ Year Two</p>
<p>Completed X Develop a comprehensive community Prevention Plan for abuse and neglect</p>	<p>X Children’s Council , Human Services Collaborating Body , CMH, DHS, Head Start, Heartland Community Services, and parents, will work together to develop the Community Prevention Plan</p>	<p>X Prevention plan completed</p>	<p>Great Start staff and members</p>	<p>Year Two</p>