

WHY ARE HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IMPORTANT?

Studies have shown that high-quality early childhood programs have led to:

- ◆ Improvements in educational performance, including higher test scores.
- ◆ Reductions in special education, grade retention, and school drop-outs.
- ◆ Increases in high school and college graduation rates.
- ◆ Reductions in juvenile delinquency and criminal activity later in life.
- ◆ Higher earnings and tax revenue by child and parent.
- ◆ Reductions in welfare necessity & child abuse.

Quality early childhood education is future workforce development.

Parents who have access to high-quality early child care and education programs exhibit lower absenteeism rates from work.

Children attending quality early childhood development programs are more likely to become adults who participate in the workforce with higher rates of productivity.

(Lessons Learned: A Review of Early Childhood Development Studies, Jean Burr, Ph.D. and Rob Grunewald, 2006)9

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

- ◆ Join the Mecosta-Osceola Great Start Collaborative to explore and develop plans for a comprehensive early childhood system.
- ◆ Watch for and participate in Mecosta-Osceola Great Start outreach events.
- ◆ Become actively involved in the Great Start Early Childhood Parent Coalition.

Mecosta-Osceola



Need more information about the Great Start Collaborative?

Visit us at
www.moisd.org/greatstart

Or Contact

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Mecosta-Osceola



**A Great Start for
EVERY CHILD
in Mecosta & Osceola
Counties...**

**Healthy, Happy and
Ready to Succeed!**



As funded by:

The Early Childhood Investment Corporation
through the Intermediate School District

www.ecic4kids.org

WHAT IS THE GREAT START COLLABORATIVE?

The Mecosta-Osceola Great Start Collaborative is a partnership of community leaders, business owners, charitable and faith-based organizations, health and human service agencies, educators, and parents.

It is committed to establishing and maintaining a comprehensive early childhood system.

The Collaborative:

- ◆ Engages community partners in the planning and coordination of services.
- ◆ Addresses the factors that influence a child's readiness for school and life.
- ◆ Promotes community awareness of early childhood issues.
- ◆ Advocates for quality early childhood programs and services.



WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM?

A comprehensive early childhood system is a network of county-wide supports and services working together to achieve better results for young children and families.

FIVE FOCUS AREAS

- ✔ **Physical Health Care**
High-quality physical and child development services, including referrals for children with developmental concerns.
- ✔ **Social-Emotional Health Care**
Specialized child development and mental health services that promote the social-emotional well-being of all young children.
- ✔ **Parent Education & Family Support**
Excellent support for parents in the critical role they play in their child's overall development.
- ✔ **Early Care and Education**
High-quality early care and educational services for children that prepare them to succeed in school and life.
- ✔ **Basic Needs, Economic Security & Child Safety**
Access to supports and services that assist families to be safe and financially stable.

WHAT IS THE GREAT START EARLY CHILDHOOD PARENT COALITION?

The Great Start Early Childhood Parent Coalition is in the development process. It will include parents, grandparents, caregivers and professionals who are involved with young children in Mecosta and Osceola counties.

The purpose of the Coalition will be to increase parent participation in early childhood planning and decision-making for the counties.

The Coalition will:

- ◆ Serve as a "voice" for parents in their community.
- ◆ Assist in building public support for early childhood as an investment.
- ◆ Support and participate in the assessment and strategic planning work of the Great Start Collaborative.
- ◆ Strengthen the commitment of parents in the community, on behalf of young children.

Need more information about the Great Start Early Childhood Parent Coalition in Mecosta and Osceola counties?

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