

Office of Great Start

Information for Public Libraries and their patrons

The Michigan Department of Education's Office of Great Start is responsible for a variety of high quality early learning programs and services designed to ensure that children are:

- *Born healthy*
- *Developmentally on track from birth to third grade*
- *Ready to succeed in school at the time of entry*
- *Reading proficiently by the end of the third grade*

The Library of Michigan and the Office of Great Start, partner offices in the Michigan Department of Education, encourage collaboration and sharing in order to promote the common goals of ensuring children are ready to succeed in school at the time of entry and that they improve their reading proficiency by the end of third grade. We will be encouraging local Great Start and Head Start programs to reach out to their local public libraries to explore opportunities to engage children and their families.

The local Great Start programs include: implementation of early childhood classroom programs; child focused or parent-focused home visiting programs; parent education; early intervention services; special education related services; services for families to help promote development and learning for their children; and, child care subsidy services for qualified families.

The Office of Great Start manages a coherent early childhood infrastructure through vehicles such as Great Start to Quality (raising the quality of child care and preschool programs), Early Childhood Standards of Quality (recommended standards of high quality programming), and continued coordination and collaboration across the Michigan Department of Education and with key early childhood services offered through the Department of Community Health and Department of Human Services.

In each of these areas, opportunities for partnerships between Great Start programs and public libraries are extensive. You can expand your audience for your children and family programs by working with local agencies that participate with the Office of Great Start. You can find brief information and directories on the Library of Michigan Youth Library Services site at www.michigan.gov/youthlibraryservices. For more detailed information on the programs under the Office of Great Start, please visit www.michigan.gov/greatstart.