



What makes
YOUR
family strong?!

Ingham Great Start Family Coalition

- A network or parent groups, parent organizations, caring adults, and family members
- Willing to help plan and support Ingham's Action Agenda
- Sharing resources and information so EVERY child ages 0-8 years old is ready for school, ready for life!

There is a Coalition made of parents and families in every county in Michigan. The Coalition connected to the Ingham Great Start Collaborative has been operating since 2006. It is part of a system of support services for families with young children, ages birth to 8.

This year, we are gathering and publishing stories that highlight the strong, diverse, and unique families in Ingham County that make up our Ingham Great Start network. The way we hope to do this is by hosting Parent Cafes. (We want to hear what YOU have to say!)

Parent Liaison: Jessica Baker: inghamscparents@gmail.com 517-899-4754

Why is there a MANDATE for parent involvement with the Parent Coalition?

- 2006 Gov. Granholm created Great Start with 20% parent participation required
- parents are children's first teachers
- parent voice in the network is designed with 2 purposes:
 1. give constructive feedback to improve programs and services
 2. advocate for continued and increased funding of those programs and services

Is the Ingham Family Coalition the same as a Parent Coalition?

- Yes. Around 2009, families who were not birth-parents of the children they were raising voiced concern. All involved agreed that Great Start Family Coalition was more inclusive, so we changed our name in 2010.

Does the Ingham Great Start Family Coalition have meetings?

- **YES!** The Parent Liaison meets with every family member interested. **All meetings are held at the Family Growth Center (549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.) on the 4th Thursday of each month (November meeting is the 5th Thursday) from 6pm-8pm.**

Who is part of the Ingham Great Start Family Coalition?

- We have parents and families who have been part of the Coalition for several years and may be described as:
 - 'legacy-parents', with kids older than 8 years old
 - 'school-age-parents' with kids 5-8 years old
 - 'early-parents' with kids 3-5 years old
 - 'beginning-parents' with kids 0-3. These parents are just beginning to know the Coalition.
- All parents are connected with a group, like their GRSP classroom, local MOPs groups, or their child's school PTO/PTA. The Coalition helps them with their 'story' and use it to advocate for their kids and/or the services they need.

Visit our website at www.inghamgreatstart.org.



at Ingham Great Start