



What makes
YOUR
family strong?!

Ingham Great Start Family Coalition

- A network of 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 and is part of a system of support services for families with young children, ages birth to 8.

In 2016, 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.

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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 designed with 2 purposes:
 1. give constructive feedback to improve programs and services
 2. advocate for continued and increased funding of 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?

- The Parent Liaison meets with every family member interested. For meetings about action and 'doing' we meet every second Wednesday either before or after the Great Start Collaborative. For support and resources, we meet every third Thursday with Kinship Care Support Group at the Family Growth Center.

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. The Coalition helps them with their 'story' and use it to advocate for their kids and/or the services they need.