

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Week of
September 26, 2022

Godwin Heights Early Childcare Center
(616)735-5351



Attendance Works

Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence

Why attendance matters to early childhood educators:

Promoting attendance is an effective way of partnering with families to prepare children for success in kindergarten and beyond. Consider the following:

- **Regular attendance allows children to benefit from participating in quality early education.** Research shows that students who miss too many days of preschool have weaker literacy and numeracy skills entering kindergarten.
- **A habit of attendance IS a school readiness skill.** Along with social-emotional and readiness skills, consistent on-time attendance is a habit that lasts. Children who are chronically absent in preschool are far more likely to be chronically absent in later grades.
- **Good attendance reflects strong parent engagement.** Attendance improves when families feel welcome and supported and when they understand what their children are learning in a program.

www.attendanceworks.org Updated 2022

friendly
Just a Few Reminders...

- As the weather changes, please keep in mind we go outside EVERYDAY! Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for all weather conditions. Layers work best as it tends to be cool in the morning and warmer in the afternoon.
- Please make sure your child is at school on time and picked up on time (class starts at 8:45 am and ends at 3:45 pm).
- FYI – parents, please be aware that we have other programs in the building and roads/parking lots may be congested at times.

NOTICE

FACE MASK NOT REQUIRED

The Office of Head Start has announced their intention to publish a final rule that will formally remove the requirement for universal masking in Head Start Programs for all individuals ages 2 and older.

- **Effective Wednesday, September 21, 2022 all individuals ages 2 and older will no longer need to wear a mask while inside of our buildings or busses.**
- **You are welcome to continue to wear a mask if that is your preference.**

THE PIGEON COMES TO

GRAND RAPIDS!

GRAND RAPIDS
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM

A Mo Willems EXHIBIT

The Pigeon STORYTIME & CRAFT

- SEPTEMBER 27 & 29
- 1:00, 3:00 & 5:00 PM
- GRMC MAKERSPACE



Use your Bridge/WIC card to get
\$1.75 admission



Reading is
the key to
learning!

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/hs4kc/events>

www.hs4kc.org

 **Head Start**
for Kent County
families and Community Resources

Parent Engagement

Family Engagement Events

Are you looking for a fun way to be involved in your child's education? Head Start for Kent County offers lots of different opportunities for you to pick from. One of the opportunities that we offer is our monthly Family Engagement Events. Each month you will receive an invitation to attend an event at your site.

These events are fun ways that parents and family members can interact with their children at the school while learning about what is happening at their site and in the agency. Usually these events have fun games, activities, and even food!

This fall you can also attend a virtual event each month that is open to everyone at Head Start for Kent County (not just a specific site). Look out for an invitation to our virtual Family Fun Night on September 28!

Tips for Selecting Diverse & Inclusive Books

Children internalize messages about themselves and others from a very young age.

Their brains are wired to categorize things somewhat rigidly, which can often result in misconceptions. ("Only boys can be firefighters!") Diverse and inclusive books encourage both positive self-image and acceptance of differences in others. But how can you know if the books you choose are really sending the right messages? *Here are some helpful guidelines:*

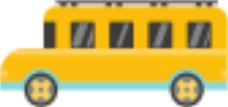
- **First and foremost, it should be a good book.** Is it a good story or, in the case of nonfiction, is it interesting and age-appropriate? Are the illustrations artistic and inviting?
- **Seek out diverse human characters.** Books with animal characters certainly have their place, but make sure you have books in your collection that feature diverse human characters too.
- **Look out for stereotypes.** Does the book contain stereotypes in either the language or illustrations?
- **Is it a "window" or a "mirror"?** Books can serve as windows through which children can learn about others, and also as mirrors in which they see their own lives reflected. Will children learn about others or see themselves in the book?
- **Make sure the information is accurate.** If the book talks explicitly about a country, culture, or group of people, it should be specific and precise in its presentation. For instance, a book about Native American characters should include details about the particular tribe or tribes being represented, as opposed to lumping all Native American people or customs into one category.
- **Check to see if it's relatable.** Books that depict diverse characters doing everyday things help children build empathy by showing that we all share things in common.
- **Think about the author's and illustrator's qualifications.** Do the author and / or illustrator come from the culture or group they are depicting? If not, what qualifies them to create this book sensitively, accurately and without bias?

Find a whole world of diverse and inclusive books at www.barefootbooks.com.

HEAD START FOR KENT COUNTY

BINGO

Get to know your child's school better!

 <p>Parents, Staff, & Community</p> <p>U.R.O.C.</p> <p>Understanding Relationships Online Committee</p>	<p>ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT!</p>	<p>Parent Cafes</p> 	 <p>Strengthening Families Program</p>
 <p>WATCH D.O.G.S.</p> <p>Watch Dogs of Great Schools</p>	<p>Read to the classroom</p> 	<p>Success Basics</p>  <p>PLAY</p> <p>EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY</p> <p>WATCH VIDEO</p>	<p>Family Engagement Event Planning</p> 
<p>Young Athletes</p> 	<p>Parent Policy Council (PPC)</p>	<p>Transition Activities</p> 	<p>Field Trips</p> 
<p>Health Advisory Committee & Education Task Force</p>	<p>CCI workgroup</p> 	<p>Bus Aid</p> 	<p>Resources</p>  <p>2.1.1</p> <p>Michigan</p>

*Mark each space as they are called out!

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<p>Parent Cafes</p> 	<p>Success Basics</p> 	<p>Read to the classroom</p> 	<p>Health Advisory Committee & Education Task Force</p>
<p>Parents, Staff, & Community</p> 	<p>ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT!</p>	<p>Transition Activities</p> 	<p>CCI workgroup</p> 
<p>Family Engagement Event Planning</p> 	<p>Field Trips</p> 	<p>Bus Aid</p> 	

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 <p>WATCH D.O.G.S. LIVES OF GREAT PURPOSE</p>	Parent Policy Council (PPC)	Transition Activities 	Read to the classroom 
Bus Aid 	Family Engagement Event Planning 	Resources 	Young Athletes 
Health Advisory Committee & Education Task Force	 <p>Strengthening Families Program</p>	ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT!	CCI workgroup 
Success Basics  <p>PLAY EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY WATCH VIDEO</p>	Field Trips 	Parent Cafes  <p>BE STRONG FAMILIES</p>	Parents, Staff, & Community  <p>U.R.O.C. Understanding Relationships Online Communities</p>

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