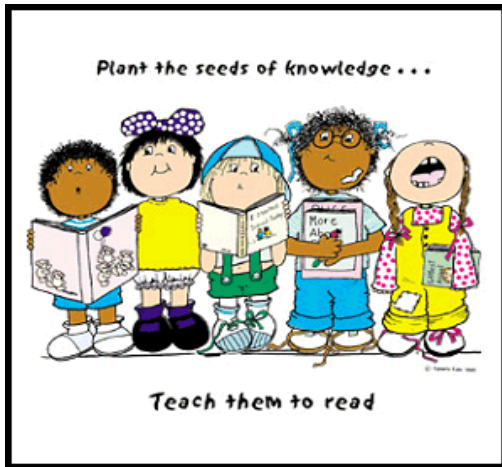


As a parent, how am I involved with my child's preschool experience?

You are your child's first primary teacher. Your participation in the Great Start Readiness Program is vital. You must be willing to have home visits, come to conferences, participate in the classroom or on field trips when possible, use the opportunities of parent workshop and seminars provided at the school throughout the year, read with your child and work with your child with the home extension projects. Your child needs your interest and participation.

How do I enroll my child?



Call Lewis Cass Intermediate School District at 4456217 or visit the website at www.lewiscassisd.org. We will make an appointment for you to visit the classroom, meet with the teacher, and complete application forms.



CASS COUNTY GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Cassopolis

Teacher: Kelly Gustafson

Paraprofessional: Jamie Duis

445-0512

Dowagiac

Teacher: Brooke Maxfield

Paraprofessional: Angela Mosier

782-4484

Edwardsburg

Teacher: Brenda Steele

Paraprofessional: Kelly Mortimer

663-1037

Marcellus

Teacher: Rosemary Dodge

Paraprofessional: Christina Carpenter

646-9209

Lewis Cass ISD

Coordinator

Heather Merrill

269-445-6217

CASS COUNTY GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM



FOUR LOCATIONS:

Cassopolis– 4-Ranger Program

Dowagiac– Inside Track Program

Edwardsburg– Edwardsburg Great Start Readiness Program

Marcellus– Marcellus Great Start Readiness Program

What is the Great Start Readiness Program otherwise known as the GSRP?



The GSRP program is a preschool for children who are 4 years old before December 1st of the current school year. The classes are half day sessions, Monday through Thursday.



Children are in class 30 weeks a year. The focus of the GSRP is developmentally based. Children learn from hands-on experiences, are introduced to a variety of learning opportunities, and enjoy play while exploring their world.

Tell me about the program.

Your child will have the opportunity to experience gross motor activities daily, will grow in their fine motor skills, have the opportunity to enhance their socialization skills through play and language, explore their world through play, and participate in learning experiences. A snack is provided daily. Also, field trips are scheduled throughout the year.

The teacher has a specialty in Early Childhood Education and the paraprofessionals also have special early childhood training. The low teacher/pupil ratio of one teacher for each 8 students is very important for young children.



What are the requirements for the GSRP program?

Your child needs:

- to be 4 years old before December 1st.
- must be toilet trained,
- be able to separate from parents,
- have a parent/guardian who can confer with teachers, accept home visits, and spend 10-15 minutes a day on home extension projects,
- meet residency requirements and program criterion,
- have a birth certificate,
- have current immunizations,
- have current health appraisal,
- have a field trip permission slip,
- be within phone contact of a responsible person who can take the child home during school hours.

Is acceptance in the program automatic?

Each student must qualify based on state guidelines. You will be notified in the early fall as to whether your child is in the program or on a waiting list for future openings.



If my child is in Headstart or another preschool, should I apply for the program?

Those children who qualify for Headstart do not qualify for the GSRP Program due to state requirements. Also, if your child is enrolled in a private preschool at the beginning of the GSRP year, the child does not qualify for the program.



Is there a cost?

This program is funded by the Michigan Department of Education. **Tuition based slots do exist on a limited basis.**

Is there bussing?

Yes, but there are considerations. Your child must weigh 40 pounds or be 40 inches tall, and there is a limit to the length of time a child may be on the bus. Bussing also determines, to some degree, whether your child will come in the AM or PM.

When does school begin?

The GSRP program starts in the middle of September and continues to the first half of May.

