

Cass County



Great Start

0-5 Program

**You are your child's first,
best teacher...**

**And you can help your child
grow to be healthy, happy
and successful in school
and life!!!**



Lewis Cass ISD

61682 Dailey Road

Cassopolis MI 49031

Phone: 269.445.6282 or

E-mail: pswaim@lewiscassisd.org

The Great Start Program:

Focuses on your Family's Strengths

Adapts services to meet your Family's needs through:

Personal Visits which are the heart of the program. A parent educator knowledgeable about child development and brain research on early learning helps you understand what to expect as your child grows and offers practical suggestions on encouraging learning as well as managing challenging behavior.

Group Meetings that allow you to meet with other parents to gain new insights, share experiences and discuss parenting topics.

Screenings & Assessments, administered periodically by a parent educator to help assess your child's overall development, as well as health, hearing and vision.

Connections with Community Resources that link your family to area resources and services beyond the scope of the Great Start 0–5 Program

Families may choose any or all of the following services:

- Home based parenting information and education
- Parent/child play groups
- Developmental Newsletter
- Links and referrals to other community resources and your local school system
- Health, Vision, Hearing, and Developmental screenings/assessments
- Resource Directory



Services are available to all families with children from birth to six who reside in the following school districts:

Cassopolis
Edwardsburg

Dowagiac
Marcellus



ENROLL TODAY!

You and your baby deserve the
support that the

Great Start 0-5 Program

Offers! Give your child the best possible
start in life, because your baby was

Born to Learn!

Call 269.445.6282 or

E-mail pswaim@lewiscassisd.org



Our parent educators help to empower parents to be the best they can be by providing information, support and resources that encourage early child development during the early and critical years of learning.

Want to have a “voice” for parents in the community? Consider joining the Great Start Parent Coalition of Cass County.

Contact:

**Melissa Freer-Smith,
Great Start Parent Liaison**

61682 Dailey Road

Cassopolis, MI 49031

269-757.4038

mfreersmith@lewiscassisd.org



Lewis Cass ISD offers all families with children from zero to six years of age free, voluntary parenting education, screening/assessments, informational and referral network.



You can help support early childhood programs in Cass County by contacting your legislature and sharing the importance in investing in early childhood. To find your legislature visit: www.michiganvotes.org

For more information on what early childhood programs and services are available in Cass County please contact Heather Merrill, Great Start Collaborative Coordinator @ 269.445.6217 or visit our website at www.greatstart-cass.org.

Did you know

- ◆ The windows of opportunity for learning are the most critical in the first 3 years of your baby's life?
- ◆ At 6 months the brain is 50% of its adult size, by 3 years it is 80% of its adult size?



United Way
of Southwest Michigan

Providing Services Today For A Better Tomorrow

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