



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE

MIDLAND COUNTY

Midland County Parent Coalition Newsletter

October-December 2012

Agency Spotlight: Central Resource Center

The Central Resource Center (CRC) is powered by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, and a partner of the Midland County Great Start Collaborative. We provide a variety of resources to parents, guardians, and child care providers throughout the state of Michigan. Here at the Midland Satellite, we provide resources to families by assisting them in finding quality, licensed child care. We also provide trainings to all licensed providers including aide and relative providers, family homes, group homes, and centers. The CRC is also actively involved in working with the STARS system. STARS stands for Systematic Tiered Assessment and Rating System. The goal of STARS is to improve the quality of child care throughout Michigan.

Licensed providers (all child care providers and preschools) are rated in 5 different areas. Providers are given a star rating, much like a hotel rating of 1-5 stars as well as a numerical rating (0-50 points). The points and star rating provide parents with information needed when searching for high quality child care. The rating system also gives providers access to resources and Quality Improvement Consultants to aid them in improving their quality of care.

For more information about the Central Resource Center, contact Brenda Boyce at the Midland County ESA at 989-492-7102 (bboyce@mcesa.k12.mi.us) or Jolene Bjorge at 989-492-7102 (jbjorge@mcesa.k12.mi.us). Or visit the website at <http://www.greatstartconnect.org>

FAMILY FRIENDLY BUSINESS AWARD

The Parent Coalition, part of the Midland County Great Start Collaborative, wishes announce the quarterly recipient of the Family Friendly Business Award Fall 2012. Recipients of this award are nominated by families within the community for their dedication to service, quality and compassion for Midland County Families as well as their support of their community as a whole. Support of the greater community may also be in the form of contributing to local causes, groups or organizations or simply going above and beyond the scope of their business to reach out to local families in an intentional way.

The Parent Coalition's first Family Friendly Business Award goes to **Dan Dan the Mattress Man** for consistently going beyond the scope of their business to offer compassionate, friendly and quality service to families on a regular basis. Congratulations Dan Dan the Mattress Man!

If you have a local business in mind that you would like to nominate for future recognition, please send an email with your nomination to Amy Hovey, Parent Liaison of the Parent Coalition at ahovey@mcesa.k12.mi.us. Include a brief description of why you think this local business should be nominated for the Family

Friendly Business Award. To be sure that your nomination is viewed in a timely manner, please be sure to include "Family Friendly Business Award" in your subject header. Thank you for your support and participation!



Parent coalition member Sarah Selaty present the award to Mary Leviere at DanDan the Mattress Man

What is the Great Start Parent Coalition?

The Great Start Parent Coalition is an important component of the Great Start System in Midland County. The Great Start Collaborative (GSC) is composed of community leaders from the fields of physical health, mental health, business and philanthropy, as well as parents. The Parent Coalition works in conjunction with the GSC and the Central Resource Center (RCC). The GSC and the Parent Coalition work together to oversee the planning, implementation, collaboration and ongoing improvement of programs and services to children in our area. The GSC focuses on early childhood resources for all children pre-natal to kindergarten. The vision of the Great Start Collaborative is to ensure that all

children will enter kindergarten safe, health, and ready to succeed in school and in life!

The Midland County Great Start Parent Coalition meets on the third **Tuesday** of each month from **5:30-7:00 pm** at **Kinder Kare Children's Center (1184 James Savage Rd. Midland, MI)**. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the coalition meetings; we welcome parents, community members, businesses, and agencies at any time! Dinner is provided as well as licensed childcare, so in order to help us plan appropriately we do ask that you R.S.V.P ahead of time. Feel free to call **Amy Hovey**, Parent Coalition Liaison, at 492-7103 or e-mail at ahovey@mcesa.k12.mi.us for more information about meetings, to R.S.V.P. to a meeting, or for information! about how to join the Midland County Parent Coalition.

In The News!

Upcoming Transitions to the Medicaid Health Plans

On October 1, children who were beneficiaries of both Medicaid and Children's Special Healthcare Services (CSHCS) will be transitioned to the Medicaid Health Plans (MHPs). This change affects 21,000 children, and enrollment into the MHPs will occur through a phased-in process through early 2013. The enrollment process will be the same as it currently is for Medicaid beneficiaries. If a beneficiary fails to select a Medicaid Health Plan, the child will be automatically enrolled in a plan in their county of residence. Parents will have 90 days after enrollment to change plans.

The MHPs must cover all Medicaid services as specified by their contract with the state and follow Medicaid policies; however, they are allowed to have different formularies as well as requirements for pre-authorizations

For more information on these changes, visit www.michigan.gov

Did you know that you can find a wealth of parent resources, a community calendar and register your child online for Imagination Library?

Visit:

www.greatstartmidland.org

2012-13 Parent Coalition Meeting Dates:

November 20th
January 15th
February 19th
March 19th
April 16th
May 21st
June 18th



Great Start Playgroups for Children ages birth thru six

Mid Michigan Community Action Agency

(for children 0-3 years old)

West Midland Family Center
84 S. Alamando Rd.

1st & 3rd Thursday from 10:00am – 11:30 am

Contact: Kelly Miller, 837-6659

Sanford Early Head Start

71 E. Saginaw Rd., Sanford

2nd & 4th Thursday from 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Contact: Stefanie Shook, 687-7055

Midland County ESA

3917 Jefferson Ave., Midland

Every Tuesday from 11:30 pm – 12:30 pm

(for children 0-6 years old)

Midland County ESA

3917 Jefferson Ave.

Wednesdays from 6pm – 7:30 pm

Contact: Holly Karbowski, 631-5892 ext. 131 or Cindy Smerdon at smerdonc@gmail.com

Mondays, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Contact: Shawna Helminiak, 687-7055

North Midland Family Center

2601 E. Shearer Rd.

Contact: Becky Coker, 689-7770

Fridays from 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Railway Family Center

991 E. Railway, Coleman

Contact: Tracy Messing, 465-465-2079

Tuesdays from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

For questions about Great Start Playgroups, please contact Laurie Anderson at 631-5892, ext 127 or landerson@mcesa.k12.mi.us.

For more information about Great Start Playgroups be sure to visit us on the web at :

www.greatstartmidland.org

Come join us for Playgroup! All families are welcome any time.