



The Skillman Foundation Presents

# YAKTIVITIES FOR HELPING KIDS

## The Great Start Collaborative

Wide-Reaching Program Seeks a Great Start for Every Child in Wayne County

The Great Start Collaborative in Wayne County seeks to make things better for pre-school children by getting all the important people involved.

In this wide-reaching program, parents work with professionals from all levels of education, with physical and mental health experts, with the faith community, local businesses and many others to share the latest information on how children develop and learn.

Most important of all, they share information on how the whole community can be involved in making sure children have what they need to succeed from birth through age five.

The goal of the Great Start Collaborative is to build an early childhood support system so that every child in Wayne County will be safe, healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life. Through its programs the Great Start Collaborative wants to make sure that:

Infants, young children and their families are physically healthy.

Infants, young children and their families are socially and emotionally healthy.

Families know how to support and guide the early learning of their infants and toddlers.

Families have access to high quality early care and education.

Infants and young children live in safe families.

Families of infants and young children are economically stable.

Children are ready to succeed in school and in life.

### What the Program Offers

The Great Start Collaborative in Wayne County (GSC-W) offers services that are key to the health and success of pre-school children. These include:

**Physical Health Care** — GSC-W offers comprehensive physical health and child development services, including screening, assessment and intervention, as well as timely and appropriate referrals for developmental,



behavioral and psychosocial assessment and intervention.

**Social-Emotional Health Care** — GSC-W provides specialized developmental and mental health services designed to promote the social and emotional well-being of all young children and to address the needs of children at risk of developing mental health problems.

**Parenting Education** — GSC-W offers support and education for parents in the critical role they play in their child's overall development.

**Family Support** — GSC-W supports the healthy development of children through programs addressing the stressors impairing the ability of families to nurture the well-being, safety and development of their children.

**Early Care & Education** — GSC-W offers early care child care and education services that support children's early learning, health and social-emotional well-being.

**Basic Needs, Economic Security & Child Safety** — GSC-W provides services and support programs that address the basic, daily living needs of families, as well as child and family safety.

### Guiding Core Values

To make sure its programs are successful, the Great Start Collaborative has designed them to be:

- Accessible, User Friendly and Affordable
- Family Guided
- Sensitive and Responsive
- Community Based
- Collaborative
- High Quality with Measurable Results
- Sound with a Long-Term Financial Base
- Publicly and Privately Supported
- Nonpartisan.



**Great Start Collaborative Wayne**

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## THINK ABOUT PRE-SCHOOLERS

The first five years of life are among the most important for any child. Staying safe and healthy, building self-confidence and developing curiosity in those years will set children up for success in school and in later life. As a family, brainstorm what things your family could do to help pre-school children stay safe and healthy, build self-confidence and develop curiosity. A fun activity to try is to get young children to talk about pictures they see in magazines or newspapers. Ask them what they think is going on in a picture or to name different things they see. As a family, make up stories about what might happen next to the people or things shown in the picture.

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