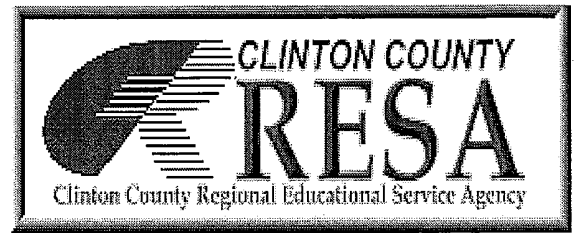




MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



CLINTON COUNTY GREAT START NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009

GREAT PARENTS GREAT START AND EARLY ON PLAYGROUP SCHEDULE

All playgroups are held on Thursdays at Clinton County RESA Educational Center,
4179 South U.S. 27 on the following dates:

November 12, 19
December 3, 17

Session Times:
10:00a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
11:30a.m. – 12:30p.m.
5:30p.m. – 6:30p.m.

VACATION SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 26 -- THANKSGIVING
DECEMBER 24 AND 30 -- HOLIDAY VACATION
PLAYGROUPS WILL RESUME ON THURSDAY JANUARY 7, 2010

The groups are open to any family having children ages birth to five years old living in Clinton County RESA district. The groups are jointly facilitated by Kittie Butcher from MSU Extension (Early On), Joyce Bischoff from Great Parents Great Start and Laurie Dachtler, CCRESA Early On. For your information, included are descriptions of Early On and Great Parents Great Start. *Early On Michigan* is the system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers, birth to three years of age, with developmental delays and/or disabilities. Early On supports families as their children learn and grow. Great Parents Great Start is a program through the Michigan Department of Education that supports Regional Education Service Agencies (CCRESA) to develop parent involvement and educational programs for children ages birth to five years of age. These playgroups are free and universally open to all families. If interested please call Joyce Bischoff at 224-6831 or Kittie at 989-224-5240 to enroll in one of the playgroup sessions.



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE

A Community Report on the Status of Young Children in Clinton County

To be successful in school and in life, Clinton County's young children must grow up in an environment that develops self-confidence, positive social emotional skills and a love for learning. The Clinton County Great Start Collaborative is funded by, and works in partnerships with, Michigan's Early Childhood Investment Corporation to prepare, and then implement, the Clinton County Early Childhood Action Agenda.

Our Early Childhood Action Agenda will lay out the actions we need to take going forward to ensure that every child enters kindergarten safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and in life. For our community to make wise decisions about the future of our young children, we need to know what the current status of young children is in Clinton County. This report presents current community data in six areas, each of which makes a critical contribution to the optimal brain development, health and early learning of young children. To view the community report and complete a survey go to: www.clintongreatstart.org or contact Karen Black 989-224-6832 for a copy.

GREAT START PARENT COALITION

The Great Start Parent Coalition (GSPC) has taken off to a "GREAT START"! The GSPC is made up of parents, grandparents, and care givers of young children in Clinton County. The Coalition: serves as a "voice" for parents in the community, assists in building public support for early childhood as an investment, supports and participates in the assessment and strategic planning work of the Great Start Collaborative, and strengthens the commitment of parents in the community, on behalf of young children. Future meetings will be from 6:00 - 7:30 PM at CCRESA Education Center on the following dates: October 6, December 8, 2009 and February 9, April 20 and June 22 of 2010. Maria Cook is the Parent Coalition Liaison and can be reached at (989) 224-6831 extension 428 or mcook@ccresa.org. We believe that "SMALL VOICES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE." Come and join us.



It is the policy of the Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) that no discriminatory practices based on gender, race, religion, color, age, national origin, disability, height, weight, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliations and beliefs, or any other status covered by federal, state or local law be allowed in providing instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any person suspecting discriminatory practice should contact the Associate Superintendent for Special Education, 1013 South US-27, St. Johns, MI 48879, or call 989-224-6831.

If Your Child is Not Feeling Well

- This template can be customized and used as an announcement via e-mail, Web site, child care or early childhood program newsletter, or other creative ways to reach parents and early childhood program staff.
- Coordinate efforts with your local health department before distributing this letter or e-mail communication to ensure that all information is timely, relevant, and accurate.

If your child is not feeling well ...

- **Watch carefully for signs and symptoms of flu.** Some children may not be able to tell you about their symptoms, which can delay your response to their illness. Symptoms of flu include fever or chills **and** cough or sore throat. In addition, symptoms of flu can include runny nose, body aches, headache, tiredness, diarrhea, or vomiting.

A fever is a temperature measured by mouth with a thermometer that is equal to or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius). If you are not able to measure a temperature, signs and symptoms that may indicate your child has a fever include chills, feeling very warm to the touch, having a flushed appearance, or sweating.

- **Watch for emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention.** These warning signs include one or more of the following:
 - fast breathing, trouble breathing, shortness of breath, or no longer breathing;
 - bluish, purplish, or gray skin color especially around the lips and the inside of the mouth, or around the nails;
 - not drinking enough fluids, refusing to drink;
 - not urinating, decreased number of wet diapers, or no tears when crying;
 - severe or persistent vomiting;
 - not waking up or not interacting (e.g., unusually quiet and inactive, no interest in playing, no interest in favorite toy);
 - being so irritable that the child does not want to be held, or cannot be consoled;
 - pain or pressure in the chest or stomach;
 - sudden dizziness;
 - confusion; and
 - flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough.
- **Stay home if you or your child is sick with the flu** until at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine). Children and teenagers **should not** be given aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid); this can cause a rare but serious illness called Reye's syndrome.
- **Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks clear fluids** (such as water, broth, sports drinks) to prevent dehydration. For infants, use electrolyte beverages such as Pedialyte®.
- **Contact your doctor immediately if a child younger than 5 years of age is sick.** This is important because the antiviral medicines used to treat flu work best when started within the first 2 days of getting sick. Your doctor will tell you what special care is needed for your child.

To protect other family members ...

- **Make sure your child's hands are washed often, and especially after coughing or sneezing.** Help your younger child wash them for 20 seconds with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, you can use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Have your child **cough and sneeze into a tissue** or into his or her elbow or shoulder if a tissue is not available. Make sure your child throws tissues away right after use.
- **Clean surfaces and objects that your child frequently touches** with his or her hands, mouth, or body fluids. Wipe these surfaces with a household disinfectant that is usually used, following the directions on the product label. Additional disinfection of these surfaces beyond routine cleaning is not recommended.
- **Keep your sick child in a separate room** (a sick room) in the house as much as possible to limit contact with household members who are not sick. Consider designating a single person as the main caregiver for the sick child.
- **Get your family vaccinated** for seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 flu according to CDC recommendations when vaccines become available.

For more information about flu, call 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit www.flu.gov.

