

Early Childhood Needs in Livingston County 2020

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

- 11,759 children between the ages of 0 - 5
- 23% children under age 6 live below 200% federal poverty level
- 21.4% of K-12 students enrolled in county public schools qualified for free or reduced priced lunch (2019-2020)
- 66.7% children 0 - 6 have all parents in the labor force
- 85 Child Care Centers in county, down from 87 in 2018

Children are Born Healthy

- 16.5% of live births with less than adequate prenatal care.
- 8.6% of live births were preterm in 2018
- Approximately 4.2% of mothers in county access home visiting services



Children are Healthy, Thriving and Developmentally on Track

- 356 Ages & Stages developmental screeners completed by parents and reviewed by Great Start Livingston, since May 2018

Children are Developmentally Ready to Succeed in School at Time of School Entry

- Kindergarten Transition Teams formed in Fowlerville and Howell school districts
- Transition forms are completed by early childhood providers and shared with local school districts to support children's transition to kindergarten



Children are Prepared to Succeed in 4th Grade and Beyond by Reading Proficiently by the End of 3rd Grade

- 42% of 3rd grade students do not rank proficient in 3rd grade reading, 2018
- Talking is Teaching campaign continues to grow in Livingston County to support parents and caregivers



Vision: All children are safe, healthy and eager to succeed in school and in life.

Why are these facts about young children's lives important?

- There are less than 2,000 days from the time a child is born until he/she enters kindergarten.
- From birth to age 3, early experiences shape the developmental structure of the brain.
- Children ages 0 - 5 need to grow up in a supportive environment which develops self-confidence, positive social emotional skills and a love for learning.
- Families and communities play critical roles in helping children get ready for school.

What services exist in Livingston County to assist with raising young children?

- Livingston County has a variety of quality early childhood programs and activities:
 - Home visiting, parent education, medical care, preschool and child care for all families, play groups, behavioral health, basic needs, parent/child activities, and more.
- Parenting materials are available through local libraries and organizations such as Child Connect for Family Success, and on line at GreatStartLivingston.org.
- You can also follow Great Start Livingston on Facebook and Instagram for local events and activities.
- Contact information - RobinSchutz@LivingstonESA.org or 517-540-6829.

What can the community do to help?

- Spend time reading to children and encouraging parents to talk, sing, and read to their children.
- Educate yourself about the important first few years of life and how to support young children's growth and development.
- Join Great Start Livingston; through the Collaborative, Parent Coalition or Workgroup, to assist in planning to meet our children's needs.
 - The Parent Coalition provides an opportunity for parents to participate in the early childhood planning, decision making and be a voice for children and parents in our county.
- Support quality child care initiatives, ongoing training for child care providers, and seek licensed, quality childcare for your own children.
- Donate funds or resources to local programs which support the needs of young children and families.
- Support funding for quality early childhood services for children prenatal – 5 years old.

