

LIVINGSTON COUNTY GREAT START LIVINGSTON FACT SHEET Early Childhood Needs in Livingston County

2018

A great start for every child in Livingston County: safe, healthy and eager to succeed in school and in life.

Community Conditions

- Approximately **11,522** children in Livingston County between the ages of 0 – 5, 2016.
- Approximately **2,861 or 24.8%** of children under age six (6) live below 200% federal poverty level.
- **22.3%** of K-12 students enrolled in Livingston County public schools during the 2017-2018 school year qualified for free or reduced priced lunch.
- **69.6%** of children 0-6 have all parents in the labor force.
- There are **87** Child Centers in Livingston County.

Children Are Born Healthy

- The percent of live births to women with less than adequate prenatal care has increased from **23.1%** in 2011 to **25.1%** in 2015.
- **8.6%** of live births were preterm in 2015.
- As of December 2017, **79.0%** of Livingston County children (ages 19 – 35 months) were up to date for the recommended immunizations.

Children are Healthy, Thriving, and Developmentally on Track from Birth to Third Grade

- Great Start Livingston launched Ages & Stages Questionnaire, an online screener for parents to track developmental milestones.
- Early On served **192 children** in 2017 between birth and age two at risk for developmental delay.
- In 2017, there were **242 children** ages 0 to 5 identified and receiving special education services.



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

- **79.7%** of children rank proficient overall in Kindergarten Observation Survey, 2017, compared to **64%** in 2013.
- A new statewide Kindergarten Readiness Assessment was implemented in Livingston County, 2018.
- In Fall 2018, the total capacity of licensed or registered child care spaces for children is **7,507** for the estimated 32,882 children 0-14 years of age in Livingston County.
- **45** Livingston County childcare providers are participating in the State Quality Rating system.

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

- **42.0%** of 3rd grade students do not rank proficient in 3rd grade reading, 2018.
- *Talking is Teaching* campaign has been launched in Livingston County to support parent and caregivers.

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 that 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 programs, parent education programs, preschool for all families, play groups, parent/child activities, and more.
- ❖ Parenting materials are available through local libraries, organizations such as Child Connect for Family Success, and on line at www.GreatStartLivingston.org, www.LivingstonParentResources.com and www.LivingstonStrengtheningFamilies.org.
- ❖ You can also follow Great Start Livingston on Facebook for local events and activities.

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 that support the needs of young children and families.
- Support funding for quality early childhood services for children prenatal – 5 years old.