

## GREAT START PARENT COALITION – JACKSON COUNTY

# CONNECTING POINTS

Whether you are a new to the GS Parent Coalition or an existing member looking for another avenue to contribute, there are unending opportunities to use your skills and interests to ensure that every child in Jackson County arrives in kindergarten safe, healthy, and ready to succeed. Below are some suggestions to help you find the right place to plug into Great Start:



- **SHARE A PARTICULAR SKILL OR CONNECTION**
  - Skill examples: desktop publishing, writing, grant work, public speaking, teaching, organizing, etc.
  - Connection examples: where are you a member, who do you know, where do you work that could be helpful to advancing an early childhood agenda?
  
- **RECEIVE EMAIL**
  - Would you like to stay informed of the issues and activities related to early childhood in Jackson?
  
- **COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (policies, events, concerns)**
  - Would you be willing to be a voice for your area-- informing the GS Parent Coalition of events that would be appropriate for us to attend, policies that are serving as barriers for your neighbors, or concerns of the parents of young children at your playground?
  
- **GS COALITION REPRESENTATIVE W/EXISTING GROUP (work, church, playgroup, school, etc)**
  - Would you be willing to represent the GS Parent Coalition by carrying information into your existing points of connection within the community AND to bringing concerns/information back?
  
- **STAFF INFO BOOTH AT LOCAL/COMMUNITY EVENTS (Fairs, Picnics, School Events, etc)**
  - Do you have an hour or two to come out and interact with parents and their children while sharing the message of Great Start?
  
- **EVENTS PLANNING/STAFFING (parent training on civic engagement, advocacy, parenting networks; Legislative Events; Community Awareness Events)**
  - Love to plan and organize? Do you live to see a ship well run? We need you!!!
  
- **PRESENT GS COALITION TO LOCAL INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS/MEETINGS**
  - From one-on-one new parent orientations to full auditoriums, we can put your public speaking skills to work in whatever setting you feel comfortable.
  
- **LEGISLATIVE TEAM (watchdog, local meetings, letter writing, etc)**
  - Do you like to stay up on the political scene and are you willing to share your knowledge with others? Like to sit down and talk with your local, state, or federal representatives about your experiences raising young children in Jackson? We need parents who are willing to keep the Coalition up to speed on the latest.
  
- **OTHER???**
  - Let us work with you to help fill in the blank.....please contact Kelly Sheppard, Parent Liaison, Jackson County Great Start Collaborative, at 517-879-9376 OR [greatstartparents@live.com](mailto:greatstartparents@live.com)