

# Parenting Education Directory

## Kalamazoo County



Revised  
May  
2012



The Great Start Collaborative regards parenting education as a key to helping all children attain the social, emotional, physical and intellectual foundation to be successful in education and in life.

This Parenting Education Directory provides a listing of parenting education resources for parents and service providers in the community. These programs provide parenting education for families with children birth to twelve.

A listing does not imply endorsement by the Kalamazoo County Great Start Collaborative. We encourage you to assess the appropriateness of a given program for your family.

We have attempted to make this directory as complete and accurate as possible and will update it regularly. We invite you to inform us about any corrections or additions that should be made.

This directory is available on-line at the Great Start Collaborative website, <http://www.kresa.org/page/341>. You are welcome to print the directory for personal use or distribution.

Please fill out the form provided at the end of the directory to tell us how you use the directory and its listings.

Great Start Collaborative  
Parenting Education and Support Committee

For information or questions contact the Great Start Collaborative at [jeatmon@kresa.org](mailto:jeatmon@kresa.org) or (269)250-9648.

## Understanding this Guide

### Type of Program:

Individual – one on one work with an emphasis on individual goals and responsibilities

Group – more than one person with similar circumstances working with facilitator or allowing for conversation among members

Home Based – individual meeting in the parent/guardian's home

### Age Relevance:

Prenatal – before birth; during pregnancy

Infant – birth to 1 year

Toddler – 1 year to 3 years trainer at the same time,

Preschool – 3 years to 5 years

Elementary – 5 years to 12 years

Organization Name and website	Program Description	Type of Program	Contact Information	Childcare Provided	Age Relevance	Cost to Families	Contact Frequency	Eligibility Criteria
<b>Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK)</b> <a href="http://www.askforkids.org">www.askforkids.org</a>	Assistance for families and their children who have mood, emotional, and behavioral challenges to understand and navigate services, advocate effectively, and achieve their potential	Individual Group	414 E. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007 343-5896	Yes	Infant Toddler Preschool Elementary	Free	Support Groups offered monthly. See website for more information. Individual contact as needed.	Parents of children who have mood, emotional, and behavioral challenges
<b>Alternatives of Kalamazoo</b> <a href="http://www.alternativesofkzoo.org">www.alternativesofkzoo.org</a>	Parental empowerment and support for families with children from birth through the teen years. <b>For Moms To Be</b> -MIT Mothers in Training (prenatal education) <b>For Dads</b> -F.I.T. Fathers In Training/ From Father To Dad <b>For Parents</b> -BFC Building Family Connections. Also, weekly parenting and life skill classes	Group	Pamela Humes Educational Outreach Director 345-1740 ext 17 4200 W. Michigan Ave., Ste. 100 Kalamazoo, MI 49006 <a href="mailto:education@alternativesofkzoo.org">education@alternativesofkzoo.org</a>	Varies	Prenatal Infant Toddler Preschool Elementary	Free	Most classes are weekly. Visit website and click Education for current schedules.	Classes are available for all parenting teens and adults.
<b>Borgess Hospital: Birth &amp; Family Education</b> <a href="http://www.wellness.borgess.com">www.wellness.borgess.com</a>	Various pregnancy and newborn classes for parents	Group	Borgess Medical Commons 7895 Currier Drive, Suite D Portage, MI 49002 226-8135/226-4840	No	Prenatal Infant	Varies	See website for list of upcoming classes and events.	

Organization Name and website	Program Description	Type of Program	Contact Information	Childcare Provided	Age Relevance	Cost to Families	Contact Frequency	Eligibility Criteria
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo</b> <a href="http://www.bgckzoo.org/">www.bgckzoo.org/</a>	<u>Family Support Program</u> – provides services to families by empowering and strengthening adults in their roles as parents, nurturers, and providers. <u>Parent Advisory Council</u> - parent support group. <u>Father's Taking Action</u> - father outreach program to assist in equipping men as fathers and father figures in challenging situations. <u>Lift Up Through Literacy Parenting Education Classes</u> provide essential information about child development, language development, and early literacy.	Group	Siobhan Williams Family Support Coordinator 915 Lake St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001 349-4485 ext 108 <a href="mailto:siobhanw@bgckzoo.org">siobhanw@bgckzoo.org</a>	Yes	Infant Toddler Preschool Elementary	Free	Weekly. Call for specific dates and times for each group	Parenting Adults, Teens or any interested individuals.
<b>Bronson Hospital: Family Centered Education</b> <a href="http://www.bronsonhealth.com">www.bronsonhealth.com</a>	Various pregnancy and newborn classes for parents	Group	Connie Koning, RN 601 John Street Kalamazoo, MI 49007 341-7521 <a href="mailto:koningc@bronsonhg.org">koningc@bronsonhg.org</a>	Varies	Prenatal Infant Toddler	Varies	See website for list of upcoming classes and events.	
<b>Catholic Family Services: Caring Network</b> <a href="http://www.catholicfamilyservices.org">www.catholicfamilyservices.org</a>	CBPT: Childbirth preparation for teens GYGO: Get Your Grownup On Court Approved Programs	Individual Group	Marti Jensen 1441 S. Westnedge Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49008 381-1234 <a href="mailto:info@catholicfamilyservices.org">info@catholicfamilyservices.org</a>	No	Prenatal Infant	Free	Contact for schedule of meetings; case management 2 per month	Pregnant women
<b>Comstock Community Center: Comstock KARES (Kids Are Ready at Every Stage)</b> <a href="http://www.comstockcc.com">www.comstockcc.com</a>	Parents As Teachers curriculum is used to assist parents with school readiness skills and identify community resources available to them	Group	Kelly Sims 1046 River St. Kalamazoo, MI 49048 370-3610	Varies	Prenatal Infant Toddler Preschool	No	Varies based on family needs	Families must live in the Comstock area
<b>Douglass Community Association: Parents as Teachers</b> <a href="http://www.douglasscommunity.org/Default.aspx">www.douglasscommunity.org/Default.aspx</a>	Child Development and parent education	Group Home-Based	Angela Johnson 1000 W. Paterson Kalamazoo, MI 49007 343-2914 ext. 217 <a href="mailto:angelacolejohnson@gmail.com">angelacolejohnson@gmail.com</a>	Children participate	Prenatal Infant Toddler	Free	1 to 4 times per month	

Organization Name and website	Program Description	Type of Program	Contact Information	Childcare Provided	Age Relevance	Cost to Families	Contact Frequency	Eligibility Criteria
<b>Elizabeth Upjohn Community Healing Center: Parents as Partners &amp; Early Intervention Program</b> <a href="http://www.communityhealingcenter.org/joomla/">www.communityhealingcenter.org/joomla/</a>	A home-based program that increases parenting skills using the Healthy Families of America Curriculum	Home-Based	Lisa Velez 2615 Stadium Dr. Kalamazoo, MI 49008 343-1651 x 129 <a href="mailto:lvelez@chcmi.org">lvelez@chcmi.org</a>	No	Infant Toddler	Free	Year round	Multiple risk factors are required.
<b>Family &amp; Children Services: Parent Infant Program</b> <a href="http://www.fcsource.org/index.htm">www.fcsource.org/index.htm</a>	Parenting education, information and support	Individual Group Home-Based	Joanne Kraska 1608 Lake St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001 344-0202 <a href="mailto:Joannek@fcsource.org">Joannek@fcsource.org</a>	No	Prenatal Infant Toddler Preschool	Free	Individualized to family needs	Parents with mental health challenges
<b>Freedom School</b> <a href="http://freedomsschoolkzoo.org/">http://freedomsschoolkzoo.org/</a>	Literacy based summer program	Group	Demarra Gardner 1912 Birch Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49004 337-1601/779-0415 <a href="mailto:change.agent.consulting@gmail.com">change.agent.consulting@gmail.com</a>	Yes	Elementary	Free	Mon-Fri, 8-3, 6 weeks	Application based. Preference is given to previous enrollees and student from the Eastside and Edison neighborhoods
<b>Healthy Babies/Healthy Start</b> <a href="http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/hbhs/index.htm">www.kalcounty.com/hcs/hbhs/index.htm</a>	Parenting/Caregiver support and skills education in child development and parent/child relationships. Court Approved Program	Group Individual Home-Based	Angela Anderson 3299 Gull Rd. Kalamazoo, MI 49048 373-5162 <a href="mailto:adande@kalcounty.com">adande@kalcounty.com</a>	Yes	Prenatal Infant Toddler Preschool	Free	10 wk cycle, Thursdays 2:00-3:00	Serving Kalamazoo County
<b>Kalamazoo County Health Dept.: Nurse Family Partnership</b> <a href="http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/nfp">www.kalcounty.com/hcs/nfp</a>	Offers Infant & Toddler development & parenting skills education	Individual Home-Based	Deb Lenz 3299 Gull Road Kalamazoo, MI 49048 373-5024 <a href="mailto:dllenz@kalcounty.com">dllenz@kalcounty.com</a>	No	Prenatal Infant Toddler	Free	2-3 per month	First time moms (primarily teens & low income)
<b>Kalamazoo County WIC</b> <a href="http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/wic/wicworks.html">www.kalcounty.com/hcs/wic/wicworks.html</a>	Knowledge, Support, Encouragement, and Empowerment for breastfeeding parents	Group	Stacey McLeod Dietician & Instructor 3299 Gull Road Kalamazoo, MI 49048 373-5002 <a href="mailto:slmcle@kalcounty.com">slmcle@kalcounty.com</a>	No	Prenatal Infant Toddler	Free	1 time class Meets every Friday at 2:00pm	Must be a WIC Participant at the Kalamazoo County office.

Organization Name and website	Program Description	Type of Program	Contact Information	Childcare Provided	Age Relevance	Cost to Families	Contact Frequency	Eligibility Criteria
<b>Kalamazoo Public Schools: Lift Up Through Literacy Program</b> <a href="http://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/literacyclasses">www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/literacyclasses</a>	<u>Family Literacy</u> to help parents and grandparents who need to improve their reading and writing skills or who need to learn how to work with their children and grandchildren on reading and writing; <u>Parent Education for Parents of Preschoolers</u> to give parents of preschoolers opportunities to learn and grow together through the use of hands-on literacy strategies; <u>Parent Education for Parents of Newborns</u> to give parents of newborns opportunities to learn and grow together through the use of hands-on literacy strategies.	Group	Bible Baptist Church (269) 382-1532 Contact: Dr. Maryann Lavender Boys & Girls Club at Lake Street Unit (269) 349-4485 Contact: Jill Angell Hispanic American Council (269) 385-6279 Contact: Lori Mercedes New Genesis Education Center (269) 343-7023 Contact: Joyce Armstrong Open Door Ministries (269) 599-3680 Contact: Joyce Wells Trenches Community Church (269) 343-2715 Contact: Pastor James Harris	Yes	Infant Toddler Preschool	Free	Weekly	Pre-Registration is required
<b>KRESA Early On</b> <a href="http://www.kresa.org">www.kresa.org</a>	Child development	Individual Group Home-Based	Kristi Carambula 4606 Croyden Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49006 250-9640 <a href="mailto:kcarambula@kresa.org">kcarambula@kresa.org</a>	No	Infant Toddler	Free	2 times per month	Identified non-special education delay
<b>KRESA Family &amp; Infant Toddler</b> <a href="http://www.kresa.org">www.kresa.org</a>	Child development	Individual Group Home-Based	Kristi Carambula 4606 Croyden Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49006 250-9640 <a href="mailto:kcarambula@kresa.org">kcarambula@kresa.org</a>	No	Infant Toddler	Free	2-4 times per month	Identified special education delay
<b>KRESA Great Start Plus</b> <a href="http://www.kresa.org">www.kresa.org</a>	Child development and parent education	Individual Group Home-Based	Kristi Carambula 4606 Croyden Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49006 250-9640 <a href="mailto:kcarambula@kresa.org">kcarambula@kresa.org</a>	No	Infant Toddler	Free	2-4 times per month	Foster, teen, or low-income parents
<b>KRESA Ready, Set, Succeed</b> <a href="http://www.kresa.org">www.kresa.org</a>	Child development and parent education	Group	Kristi Carambula 4606 Croyden Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49006 250-9640 <a href="mailto:kcarambula@kresa.org">kcarambula@kresa.org</a>	No	Infant Toddler	Free	Periodic consultation and Play Groups	Parent of child

Organization Name and website	Program Description	Type of Program	Contact Information	Childcare Provided	Age Relevance	Cost to Families	Contact Frequency	Eligibility Criteria
<b>KRESA: Positive Behavior Supports</b> <a href="http://www.kresa.org">www.kresa.org</a>	Positive Behavior Support for parents	Group	April Goodwin 1819 E. Milham Road Portage, MI 49002 250-9230 <a href="mailto:agoodwin@kresa.org">agoodwin@kresa.org</a>	No	Infant Toddler Preschool Elementary	Free	Varies	
<b>La Leche League of Kalamazoo and Vicinity, MI</b> <a href="http://www.llusa.org/web/KalamazooMI">www.llusa.org/web/KalamazooMI</a>	Nationally trained and accredited leaders provide breastfeeding support	Group	See website for list of current leaders and their contact information.	Children participate	Prenatal Infant Toddler	Free	Monthly meetings and available by phone anytime. Contact a leader for specific dates and locations.	Breastfeeding mothers and interested mothers to be
<b>The Montessori School: Baby College</b> <a href="http://www.themontessorischool.org">www.themontessorischool.org</a>	Parenting classes that include a presentation followed by social time. Topics include: brain development, toilet training, and more	Group	Judy Hill 750 Howard Street Kalamazoo, MI 49008 6274 N. 32 <sup>nd</sup> St. Richland, MI 49083 349-3248 <a href="mailto:judy@themontessorischool.org">judy@themontessorischool.org</a>	Yes	Infant Toddler	Free	Monthly. Kalamazoo: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month 10:00-11:00 Richland: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month 11:00-12:00	Do NOT need to be enrolled in Montessori School
<b>Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)</b> <a href="http://www.mops.org">www.mops.org</a>	While each group is different, there are 4 foundational principles: community, mentoring, practical instruction, and leadership development	Group	2370 South Trenton Way Denver, CO 80231 800-929-1287 <a href="mailto:info@mops.org">info@mops.org</a>	Yes	Preschool	Varies	See website for local groups	Faith-Based
<b>MSU Extension/Kalamazoo County: Kinship Care Families</b> <a href="http://www.kalcounty.com/msue/grand">www.kalcounty.com/msue/grand</a>	A program designed to provide kinship care providers information, support, and access to community resources. Topics include legal issues, parenting skills, healthcare options, and communicating with the schools	Group	Joyce Stout 3299 Gull Road Kalamazoo, MI 49048 384-8054 <a href="mailto:stoutjo@anr.msu.edu">stoutjo@anr.msu.edu</a>	Yes	Infant Toddler Preschool Elementary	Free	Monthly	Relatives Raising Relative Children

Organization Name and website	Program Description	Type of Program	Contact Information	Childcare Provided	Age Relevance	Cost to Families	Contact Frequency	Eligibility Criteria
<b>New Genesis</b>	Parent Education	Group	Joyce Armstrong 1340 Cobb Kalamazoo, MI 49007 343-7023 ext. 220 <a href="mailto:MJARM51@aol.com">MJARM51@aol.com</a>	Varies	Infant Toddler Preschool Elementary	Varies	Varies	Open to All
<b>Open Door Ministry: Family Literacy</b>	School Readiness and Literacy Parent Education	Group	Joyce Wells 599-3680 <a href="mailto:joycewells@ameritech.net">joycewells@ameritech.net</a>	Yes	Infant Toddler Preschool	Free	Summer program	
<b>Oshtemo Public Library: Baby Talk</b> <a href="http://www.kpl.gov/kids/storytimes-at-oshtemo/baby-talk.aspx">http://www.kpl.gov/kids/storytimes-at-oshtemo/baby-talk.aspx</a>	Babies play together and parents discuss parenting issues and challenges	Group	Connie Koning, RN, BA 7265 W. Main Kalamazoo, MI 49009 553-7980 <a href="mailto:KONINGC@bronsonhg.org">KONINGC@bronsonhg.org</a>	Yes	Infant	Free	Every Wednesday 1:30-3:30pm	
<b>Oshtemo Public Library: Toddler Talk</b> <a href="http://www.kpl.gov/kids/storytimes-at-oshtemo/toddler-talk.aspx">http://www.kpl.gov/kids/storytimes-at-oshtemo/toddler-talk.aspx</a>	Children play together and parents discuss parenting issues and challenges	Group	Connie Koning, RN, BA 7265 W. Main Kalamazoo, MI 49009 553-7980 <a href="mailto:KONINGC@bronsonhg.org">KONINGC@bronsonhg.org</a>	Yes	Toddler	Free	Every Wednesday 10:00 am-12:00pm	
<b>Parent 2 Parent</b> <a href="http://www.p2pswmi.org">www.p2pswmi.org</a>	Support for families with children having developmental disabilities or special needs	Individual Group Home-Based	Jayne Weaver & Candi Bush 406 E. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007 345-8950 <a href="mailto:jayne@p2pswmi.org">jayne@p2pswmi.org</a> <a href="mailto:candi@p2pswmi.org">candi@p2pswmi.org</a>	Yes	Infant Toddler Preschool Elementary	Free	Varies	For parents with a child with a disability or special need. Serving Southwest Michigan.
<b>Parent Power</b>	A community based program focused on family literacy and school readiness	Group	Janee' Steele 618-303-2985 <a href="mailto:janee.steele@gmail.com">janee.steele@gmail.com</a>	No	Preschool	Free	As requested	
<b>Prevention Works: Celebrate Families Program (CFP)</b> <a href="http://www.prevention-works.org">www.prevention-works.org</a>	A program for parents and caregivers of children 5-9 years old. Helps to connect, build and celebrate family strengths. Includes dinner and transportation. Court Approved Program	Group	Nicole Storteboom 611 Whitcomb St. Suite A Kalamazoo, MI 49008 388-4200 <a href="mailto:nstorteboom@prevention-works.org">nstorteboom@prevention-works.org</a>	Yes	Elementary	Free	Weekly for 8 weeks. Contact for specific dates and times	



Organization Name and website	Program Description	Type of Program	Contact Information	Childcare Provided	Age Relevance	Cost to Families	Contact Frequency	Eligibility Criteria
<b>Prevention Works: Strengthening Families Program (SFP)</b> <a href="http://www.prevention-works.org">www.prevention-works.org</a>	A program for parents and caregivers of children 10-14 years old. Topics include effective parenting, communication and social skills, skills for youth to resist peer pressure. Includes dinner and transportation. Court Approved Program	Group	Nicole Storteboom 611 Whitcomb St. Suite A Kalamazoo, MI 49008 388-4200 <a href="mailto:nstorteboom@prevention-works.org">nstorteboom@prevention-works.org</a>	Yes	Elementary	Free	Weekly for 7 weeks. Contact for specific dates and times	
<b>Ujuma Enterprises: Ujima parents as Teachers (UPAT)</b>	Literacy, preschool readiness, cultural competency, & parent education. Parent must have a commitment to working in a long term partnership for the development of the child	Group Home-Based	Dr. Jeanne Baraka-Love PO Box 50294 Kalamazoo, MI 49005 352-6907 <a href="mailto:UjimaEnterprises@gmail.com">UjimaEnterprises@gmail.com</a>	No	Prenatal Infant Toddler	Free	Monthly home and group meetings; more if needed	A desire for African, Asian & Latino cultural heritage
<b>YWCA of Kalamazoo: Making It Real Parenting Class</b> <a href="http://www.ywcakalamazoo.org">www.ywcakalamazoo.org</a>	Parenting support for those living in crisis situations. Court Approved Program	Group	353 E. Michigan Avenue Kalamazoo, MI 49007 385-3587 <a href="mailto:info@ywcakalamazoo.org">info@ywcakalamazoo.org</a>	Yes	Infant Toddler Preschool Elementary	Free	Weekly for 9 weeks. Fridays 5:30-7:30	Must be willing to attend all 9 weeks

## Positive Parenting Tips

### Create Daily Routines

Routines with your child can reduce stress for parent and child. The child will cooperate better when they know what is expected during the day.

### Be a Good Role Model

Children are always watching. Give them something good to see and follow.

### Take 5

If you are feeling stressed, take a few minutes to clear your head.

### Enrich your Learning Environment

Find free ways to teach your children at home: Stack soups cans or sort socks by color. An enriching environment at a young age means a brighter future.

### Seek Early Intervention

If you feel your child has any type of delay, seek out support. The earlier the issue is found the better the outcome.

### Find Alternatives to Spanking

Set rules and consequences, instead of spanking.

### Ask for Help

It's okay if you aren't "super parent" and need an extra hand once in a while. Seek out a friend, neighbor, or support groups.

### Be Consistent

Your children need to know what to expect from you as it relates to rules, rewards, punishments and routines. They need to be the same each day.

### Educate Yourself

Be an informed parent. Know what is happening in your community to better educate and prepare your child for school.

### Be a Co-parent

Conflicts may arise in parenting styles if you are sharing the job with a partner or grandparent. Make sure you talk over your parenting plan and expectations.

**PARENTING RESOURCE DIRECTORY FEEDBACK FORM**

This form is designed so you can provide us with feedback on your experience with the directory.

Specific feedback should be referred directly to the agencies.

1. Your Agency \_\_\_\_\_

2. Parenting Resource(s) utilized: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Does the directory provide enough information?  Y  N

4. Is the directory organized in a useful manner?  Y  N

5. Suggestions for this directory \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of your Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or fax this form to Jacque Eatmon, Coordinator of the Great Start Collaborative  
4606 Croyden, Kalamazoo, MI 49006 or Fax to (269) 250-9641.