

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information about programs in your area, contact your intermediate school district.

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Michigan programs offer support for young children and families during pandemic

LANSING, Michigan - With news reports of children falling behind and the stressors of work and schooling at home, Michigan officials want parents of young children to know that resources are available. While children from birth through age five are not old enough for the Kindergarten through 12th grade experience yet, support through the public school system is available. Resource-rich programs are accessible to Michigan families, and program specifics with contact information are highlighted here:

Thrive from Home

Designed for: Young children

To address challenges related to the pandemic, Build Up Michigan has partnered with PBS Kids to create a bank of *Thrive from Home* resources for families to support learning and development for young children. Support for communication, gross motor, literacy, science and math is available through online videos, learning strategies, activities and resources. More information is available at <https://buildupmi.org/thrive>.

Early On® Michigan

Designed for: Infants and toddlers, birth to age 3, who may be behind in development

Early On Michigan supports families of infants and toddlers who may not be reaching developmental milestones, or are at risk for delays due to certain health conditions. Evaluation for eligibility and services are free. Services are available through county-level intermediate school districts and are designed to provide families with the social, health, and educational services that will help promote their child's development. Visit 1800earlyon.org or call 1-800-EARLYON to learn more.

Early Childhood Home Visiting

Designed for: Prenatal mothers, families and children birth to age 5, who want additional parenting support

Home visiting provides free family support and coaching through planned, regular visits with a trained professional. Home visitors work with parents on essential parenting skills as well as family bonding both before the birth of their child and as their children grow. Michigan Department of Education (MDE) home visiting services are available through program funding through local Great State Collaboratives and intermediate school districts. Visit www.mihomevisiting.com for more information and how to find a home visiting program near you.

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Build Up Michigan

Designed for: Preschool-aged children, 3 through 5 years of age, who need specialized support to access learning

Build Up Michigan helps parents and their children, ages 3 through 5, get additional educational support as they begin and continue to learn the skills needed to enter kindergarten. The program connects children to special education services statewide through intermediate and local school districts. If you are concerned that your child may have a disability that is getting in the way of learning, get connected. Gain an understanding of typical development and milestones to see if your child might qualify. Visit buildupmi.org to learn more and to identify with your local Coordinator.

Head Start and Early Head Start

Designed for: Children, ages birth to age 5, from families with low income (free)

The Office of Head Start (OHS) helps young children from families with low income prepare to succeed in school through local programs. These school readiness programs promote children's development through services that support early learning, literacy, and social and emotional development. To find a Head Start or Early Head Start program near you, call 1-866-763-6481.

Great Start Readiness Program

Designed for: 4-year-old children, from families with low income (free)

Free preschool for 4-year-old children is available for families who qualify due to low income and other qualifying factors. View an interactive intermediate school district map to find your county's contact information and specific program details here: <http://bit.ly/3oc7yyM>.

Great Start to Quality Child Care Programs

Designed for: Children ages birth to 12

Quality child care is important so that families of young children can work and/or further their own education. Visit the Great Start to Quality website to find quality child care programs near you that are designed to provide a safe, nurturing place for children to learn, explore and build relationships: greatstarttoquality.org.

Michigan Learning Channel

Designed for: All Children

Currently Offers: Instructional programming for children in grades Pre-K–3rd Grade (with more grade levels and subjects to be added over time)

The Michigan Learning Channel (MLC) is available on all Michigan public television stations (PBS). It delivers instructional content to support the education of students and alternative resources for families and teachers. The content is being developed in partnership with Michigan educators. All six Michigan PBS stations have a dedicated channel for the new service that is operated by Detroit Public TV. Visit MichiganLearning.org and follow @MichLearning on social media to learn more. It is funded through a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education.

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