

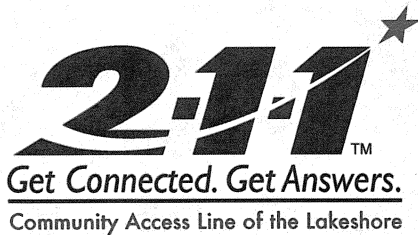


BRIDGES

2009

Resource

Book



Who is Eligible?

All residents looking for human services in Muskegon, Ottawa, Oceana and Mason counties.

Why CALL 2-1-1?

Simply dialing 2-1-1 makes it possible for people in need to navigate a complex and ever-growing maze of human service agencies and programs. By making services easier to access, CALL 2-1-1 helps people avoid crisis and fosters self-sufficiency. A searchable database containing detailed information on thousands of health and human services is available to the public at www.call-211.org.

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Muskegon County Community Mental Health

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Shape Corporations, Chuck Michele
United Way of Manistee County, Evelyn Splet
United Way of Mason County, Lynne Russell

Executive Director

Susan Howell
Phone: 231-733-8601
Email: susan@call-211.org



CALL 2-1-1 Services Overview

CALL strives to be a visible and effective access point for persons needing health and human service programs, promoting consumer education and choice of options. CALL provides Comprehensive Information and Referral for Mason, Muskegon, Oceana and Ottawa Counties as well as Specialized Senior Information and Assistance for Muskegon, Oceana, and Ottawa Counties.

Your Source For Information

- Food, Housing & Clothing
- Utility Assistance
- Support Groups
- Healthcare Services
- Teen Pregnancy
- Senior Issues
- Transportation
- Prescription Assistance
- Seasonal Programs

Resource Database

CALL values the importance of data as the fundamental building block for making effective referrals. Information is a dynamic and fluid entity, and CALL is committed to maintaining a current, accurate, and comprehensive database. CALL employs a full-time nationally certified Resource Specialist dedicated to the continuous collection and updating of more than 2,000 health and human service resources. This information is classified using the nationally endorsed AIRS Info Line Taxonomy of Human Services, the standard used across the state of Michigan and nationwide.

Our Vision

Effectively connecting people and services.

Our Mission

CALL's mission is to increase access to community services through effective and compassionate information and referral. Our program and our staff is committed to fulfilling this mission and to upholding the values that serve as the foundation for the way CALL operates.

These values include:

- Acknowledging and respecting the diversity of our callers
- Maintaining the highest degree of confidentiality
- Embracing the concept of self-determination and freedom of choice for consumers
- Empowering individuals to make their own informed choices
- Identifying and tracking community needs
- Advocating for new resources and services where current gaps exist



Mission Statement

The mission of The Arc Muskegon is to assure that citizens of Muskegon County with cognitive and developmental disabilities and their families have an equal opportunity to participate in, and contribute to the quality of life in their community.

History

The Arc Muskegon is an affiliate chapter of The Arc Michigan and The Arc of the United States. This organization is the oldest and largest grassroots organization advocating on behalf of people with intellectual (cognitive) and developmental disabilities and their families. Many of the laws, services and rights of individuals with developmental disabilities we enjoy today are a result of The Arc's hard work. The Arc Muskegon became a local chapter in 1952, and hired its first staff in 1984.

Program Services

Advocacy/Outreach

- ♦ Provide information/referral parent support, link to resources, access to various services, special education information/assistance and public policy relations.
- ♦ Distribute educational newsletters (The Arc News) to members, parents, professionals and others.
- ♦ Host educational seminars/workshops for parents, professionals and individuals with developmental disabilities.
- ♦ Community Representation-active committee member in the disability community representing people with developmental disabilities.
- ♦ Prevention Activities-Educational presentations on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and other preventative disabilities.
- ♦ Community Outreach-events-presentations-distribute information packets on a variety of developmental disabilities and other relative issues.
Contact person-Margaret O'Toole, (231) 777-2006 Extension 222

Community Living Supports

- ♦ Providing in-home and community supports to qualifying adults with developmental disabilities to include: assistance with cooking, budgeting, appointments, personal care needs & community participation. Referral source: Community Mental Health (CMH)
Contact person: Karen Bowne (231) 777-2006 Extension 223

Dignified Lifestyles

♦Visiting mental health funded facilities and individuals with developmental disabilities receiving state funded services. Trained volunteers are advocates focusing on needs, rights, choices and community inclusion.

Contact person: Karen Bowne (231) 777-2006 Extension 223

Consumer Voice

♦Adult consumers who receive mental health services at Community Mental Health of Muskegon County are welcome and needed to participate on CMH committees and workshops. The focus is to promote self-advocacy.

Contact person: Margaret O'Toole (231) 777-2006

Join The Arc

The Arc is a membership organization. There are over 140,000 members nationwide.

Membership privileges include

- ✓ Membership to the State and National organization
- ✓ Quarterly newsletters (Local/State/National)
- ✓ Conventions, conferences and special training (reduced costs)
- ✓ Insurance programs
- ✓ The Arc's Credit Card Program
- ✓ On line community and more.....

Importance of membership to The Arc

- ✓ Monitor and participate in public policy/legislation
- ✓ Research/prevention
- ✓ Develop best practices
- ✓ **Support of the largest grassroots organization advocating for people with developmental disabilities and their families in the United States**
- ✓ Public awareness regarding inclusion, employment, education, community living, rights and abilities of people with developmental disabilities.

What is a Developmental Disability?

Developmental disabilities are a class of conditions that usually originate before birth, shortly after birth, and before age **22** that will continue in some form over a lifetime. Intellectual/cognitive disability (previously called mental retardation) is a developmental disability in which a person's rate and degree of intelligence is lower than society as a whole.

There are approximately **7.2 million** Americans with cognitive or related developmental disabilities. **One in nine families** have a loved one with a developmental disability. Causes for both may include:

- genetics
- trauma at birth
- poor nutrition
- substance abuse
- lead poisoning
- accidents
- environmental factors

Most people with a cognitive disability are in the mild range (I.Q. of 70-75)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Public Health – Muskegon County • 209 E Apple Avenue • Muskegon, Michigan 49442
231.724.6209 • Fax: 231.724.3366 • www.muskegonhealth.net

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) is health care coverage for children with special medical needs.

There are over 2,500 different diagnoses that are covered under CSHCS. For most conditions, a person must be under 21 years of age. Only people with Cystic Fibrosis or Hemophilia may be eligible after age 21.

CSHCS can be used with other insurances. CSHCS only covers the medical services/costs for the approved diagnosis. CSHCS does not cover immunizations, well-child check ups, etc.

CSHCS coverage may be free for some families.

Coverage is usually for 1 year at a time and can be renewed.

Psychiatric, emotional and behavioral disorders, ADD, ADHD, developmental delay, mental retardation, autism or other mental health diagnoses are not conditions covered by CSHCS.

For more information, visit us on the web at www.muskegonhealth.net or by calling 231/724-6209.

Community Mental Health of Muskegon County

376 E. Apple Ave. Muskegon MI 49442
ACCESS (231) 720-3200 TTY 720-3280
Customer Service (231) 7203201

See the star in every
child



Services for Youth

Assessments

A complete evaluation of the child's strengths and needs, which may result in beginning a specific CMH service, changing a service or referring to a community resource that can meet the child's needs.

Psychiatric Evaluation

Psychiatrists are available to assess the child's need for medications to help control symptoms of mental illness and other medical conditions.

Psychological Evaluation

This is an evaluation using psychological testing administered by a fully qualified and licensed staff to help determine the child's diagnosis in order to recommend the best treatment for the child.

All Other Assessments and Testing

This refers to professional assessments and testing, other than psychological tests, that are done to determine the child's level of functioning and treatment needs.

Health Services

Face-to-face services to either maintain or improve the child's overall health and their ability to care for health related needs. These services will be carefully coordinated with the child's Health Plan.

Medication Administration

This service allows the child to receive an oral medication, injection, or topical medication prescribed by a physician.

Medication Review

The child will receive evaluation and monitoring of the effects of medications and the need to continue or change the medication.

Child Therapy / Family Therapy

Treatment designed to reduce problem behaviors and maximize skills in behavioral self-control and emotional adjustment, thus enabling the child to function more appropriately in interpersonal and social relationships. A child mental health professional may provide child therapy on an individual or group basis.

Treatment /Supports Planning

An Individual Plan of Service through a person-centered process is written based on the child and family's needs identified in an assessment.

Supports Coordination

Services include assessment, planning, linking, advocacy, coordinating, and monitoring to help the child and family get the services needed. Staff will assist the child and family in accessing other community services such as medical, social, and educational programs.

Home-Based Services are intensive services to children based on the child's need with the focus on the family. The program design is a strength-based approach, emphasizing assertive intervention, parent and professional teamwork, and community involvement with other service providers.

Services for Youth

Behavior Support is a plan developed during person center planning that reinforces socially desirable/appropriate behavior and intervention(s) to decrease socially unwanted or dangerous behavior.

Respite Care Services provides temporary alternative care, either in the family home, or in another community setting chosen by the family.

Community Living Supports are activities provided by paid staff that help individuals live independently and participate actively in the community.

Family Support Subsidy Program can pay special expenses a family has while caring for their child with severe disabilities.

Who is eligible for Mental Health Services?

Treatment services for youth are based on the child's need with a focus on the family unit. The service supports a strength-based approach, emphasizing assertive intervention, parent and professional teamwork, and community involvement with other service providers.

Mental Health Services are based on a medical need and include health issues related to a developmental disability, a mental illness or brain disorder and addiction disorders.

Muskegon CMH provides service under a "Managed Care" contract with the State of Michigan, Department of Community Health. Our programs and activities are governed by a Board of Directors.

Important Words to Know

Specialty Supports and Services: A term that means Medicaid-funded mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse supports and services that are managed by the Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans.

SED: An acronym for Serious Emotional Disturbance, and as defined by the Michigan Mental Health Code, means a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder affecting a child that exists or has existed during the past year for a period of time sufficient to meet diagnostic criteria specified in the most recent **DSM** (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders); and has resulted in functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits the child's role or functioning within the family, school, or community activities.

Development Disability: As defined by the Michigan Mental Health Code means either of the following: (a) if applied to a person older than five years, a severe chronic condition that is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or both, and is manifested before the age of 22 years; is likely to continue indefinitely; and results in substantial functional limitations in three or more areas of the following major life activities: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and reflects the need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment or other services that are of lifelong or extended duration; (b) if applied to a minor from birth to age five, a substantial developmental delay or a specific congenital or acquired condition with a high probability of resulting in a developmental disability.

Person-Centered Planning (PCP) is the process that is used to develop and create your **Individual Plan of Service (IPOS)**. It is a way for you to identify your goals, the supports that will be necessary and make decisions that will help you achieve them. It is a process that respects and honors cultural differences, focuses on your strengths, and gives others an opportunity to support you in whatever ways are important to you.



Local Contact Information

Muskegon County Early On
630 Harvey Street
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 767-7253
Louanne Utzinger or Monica Jenkins

هل عندكم اهتمامات
خاصة تتعلق
بِنَمُو طفلكم؟

¿Le preocupa
el desarrollo o
la salud de
su hijo?

Early On[®] Michigan
Don't worry. But don't wait.

Concerned About Your Child's Development?

1-800-Early-On (1-800-327-5966)
www.1800EarlyOn.org

Early On[®] Michigan
1-800-Early-On (1-800-327-5966)
www.1800EarlyOn.org
TTY: 517-668-2505 service available
for the deaf and hard of hearing.

**"As Governor, I will be fighting for a
Great Start for every child in our state."**

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

**"Beginning in the earliest years, communities
must provide opportunities so all of our children
come to school ready to learn."**

Michael P. Flanagan
Superintendent of Public Instruction



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Early On[®] Michigan

Don't worry.
But don't wait.

Should You Be Concerned About Your Child's Development?

Most parents wonder at times if their child is growing and developing like other children. If you think that your child's growth, learning, or social skills are not the same as those of other children the same age, the sooner you check it out the better.

Call *Early On*[®] Michigan. We'll talk with you and refer you to an *Early On* Coordinator close to your home. Your Coordinator will help you find out if your child qualifies for free or low-cost services. Your Coordinator also can give you information on things that you can do to help your child grow and learn.

We want your child to have a great start in life. Call us. We're here to help.

Call **1-800-Early-On (1-800-327-5966)** for free information about your child's development and *Early On* services, or visit us on the Web at www.1800EarlyOn.org.

We'll help you help your child.

Each baby goes through developmental stages. Here are some tips to help you decide if you should ask for help.

By 3 months does your baby...

lift head and chest when lying on stomach?
show vigorous body movement?
show improved head control?
recognize breast or bottle?
coo – chuckle?

By 6 months does your baby...

sit with a little help?
roll from back to stomach?
support weight; bounce activity?
babble – more than two sounds?
hold one toy and reach for another?

By 12 months does your baby...

pull self to standing – may step with support?
pick things up with thumb and one finger?
put one toy in another?
give toy on request?
give affection?
follow simple directions accompanied by gestures?
say 2 or 3 words?

By 24 months does your toddler...

kick large ball?
turn pages of a book?
imitate housework?
ask for items by name?
use 2 or 3 words together, such as "more juice?"
recognize familiar pictures – know if it is upside down?

Early On[®] Michigan Helping Babies & Toddlers Grow and Learn

The first few years of a child's life are very important, but children grow and learn at different rates. If you have questions about how your child is developing, or if you think that your child might need extra help, call *Early On*[®] Michigan.

Early On helps families get the help they need for their children. Parents know what is best for their families. At *Early On*, we listen to you. You will find friendly, supportive, and knowledgeable people who will talk to you about your concerns. Sometimes, we will arrange a free evaluation.

If the evaluation shows that your child needs help, we'll tell you how to get that help at little or no cost.



Goodwill Workforce Development Programs

Goodwill Industries helps people train for, find, and keep good jobs — providing hope, pride, and self-sufficiency to people with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

Some people find their way to Goodwill because of limited skills or work history, some have physical or developmental disabilities, while others are referred through welfare or community correction systems. Goodwill helps people earn a paycheck while they're preparing for permanent jobs by placing them in temporary jobs or in jobs at Goodwill. Goodwill also works in collaboration with other businesses and community organizations to create opportunities and assistance for people who need help finding a job.

Goodwill offers a broad range of employment programs and services to fulfill a diverse set of community needs. Services vary depending on individuals' wants, needs, and situation. The scope of services includes: assessment, career exploration, temporary employment, work rehabilitation, computer training, résumé writing, interview skills, job coaching, and much more.

Career Development

Goodwill's career development services provide the information and support needed for an individual to develop, plan for, and acquire career goals. Goodwill career counselors are available to assist participants in assessment of their skills and interest, and lead them through the career exploration process to create a structured plan with specific career objectives.

Community Corrections Employability Skills

This program transitions ex-offenders, referred by the Muskegon County Office of Community Corrections Department, back into the workplace through assessment, training, and job search assistance.

Employability Assessment Program

The purpose of this program is to determine a person's job readiness. The focus is on assessment, not training. Serving persons with disabilities, program participants are referred by their Community Mental Health Services case manager. The program was developed to provide assistance to the Michigan Department of Career Development in determining when a participant is ready and capable of community-based employment.

Employment Support Services

A variety of employment services are offered to anyone visiting Goodwill's Workforce Development Center. They include: résumé writing and composition assistance, access to computer stations for composing and printing cover letters, Internet job search and posting using Michigan Talent Bank, and others, access to newspaper job listings, use of phone or fax for the purpose of securing a job, and meeting rooms for interviews or meetings with prospective employers.

GoodTemps

GoodTemps is a temporary staffing agency offering people who may not have a significant work history the opportunity to gain valuable work experience. GoodTemps is also a good fit for workers who simply need a flexible schedule or desire a supplemental income.

Jobs, Education, and Training (JET)

Formerly called "Work First," this is a curriculum-based program sponsored by Michigan Works! that provides career counseling, employability skills, and self-directed job search assistance to individuals who are transitioning from welfare to work. The program offers a supportive environment for participants seeking employment.

Key Train

Key Train is an interactive, easy-to-use, self-paced training system for improving workplace skills measured by the WorkKeys assessment system. (See WorkKeys entry.) Participants can assess their potential score, review topics in each skill area, and practice problems similar to those on the WorkKeys assessment.

Michigan Prison Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI)

MPRI is a statewide strategic approach to create safer neighborhoods and better citizens through the delivery of a seamless plan of services, programming, support, and supervision for prisoners re-entering the community.

Return-to-Work Program

This program facilitates the return of injured workers to the workforce as soon as it is medically appropriate. Goodwill assists the employee who has sustained an injury or illness by providing temporary alternate or light-duty work. Gradual increases in length or difficulty of the work builds strength and tolerance levels until the worker can return to his/her regular employment.

Supported Employment

Targeted primarily toward people with developmental disabilities or mental illness, this model of service is intended for individuals who can benefit from closely supported training and ongoing support from a Goodwill employment specialist in order to make a successful adjustment to the job. The program combines job development with job coaching and long-term follow-up to maximize employment potential.

Vocational Evaluation

Goodwill provides in-depth, comprehensive diagnostic assessment and evaluation encompassing: physical capabilities, vocational interests, aptitude testing, knowledge of occupational information, academic skills, verbal/cognitive skills, work skills and work tolerance, general work habits and characteristics, and vocational options and objectives.

Work Activity / Skill Building Program

This program is available as a service option for persons with developmental disabilities who need long-term, facility-based training and employment, or who choose not to seek community-based employment. Participants are referred from Community Mental Health Services of Muskegon County, MAISD, local school districts and other referral sources.

Work Adjustment Program

Serving persons with little or no work experience — or those who have been out of work for an extended period of time — the intent of this program is to help individuals understand the meaning, value, and demands of work, or to re-establish skills, attitudes, and work behaviors.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Sponsored by Michigan Works!, this federal program offers assessment, job placement assistance, career counseling, and other supports to promote employment, job retention, and occupational skills training for youths, adults, and dislocated workers.

WorkKeys

WorkKeys is a standardized job skills assessment test system measuring "real world" skills critical to job success. The WorkKeys system is centered on three major components: reading for information, applied mathematics, and locating information. Individuals who test favorably in these assessments qualify to receive the National Career Readiness Certificate.

Work Readiness Program

Work Readiness is designed to provide psychosocial / vocational rehabilitation for persons with mental illness. This training focuses on maintaining psychiatric stability through the therapeutic power of work. Job seeking and maintenance, money management, self care, use of leisure time, stress management, and improving health care skills are all covered. Clients are referred and supported by Community Mental Health Services of Muskegon County.



Corporate Headquarters
271 East Apple Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442
Phone/TTY: (231) 722-7871

Workforce Development Center
950 West Norton Avenue, Suite C, Muskegon, MI 49441
Phone/TTY: (231) 739-9010

WHAT IS THE MUSKEGON COUNTY GREAT START COLLABORATIVE?

The Muskegon County Great Start Collaborative is a partnership of community members, business leaders, charitable and faith-based organizations, health and human service agencies, educators, and parents.

It is committed to establishing and maintaining a comprehensive early childhood system.

The Collaborative:

- ◆ Engages community partners in the planning and coordination of services.
- ◆ Addresses the factors that influence a child's readiness for school and life.
- ◆ Promotes community awareness of early childhood issues.
- ◆ Advocates for quality early childhood programs and services.



Muskegon County

Great Start

**Great Start for Every
Child in Muskegon County!**

**Healthy, Happy and
Ready to Succeed!**

A Great Investment!



As funded by:

**The Early Childhood Investment
Corporation**

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM?

A comprehensive early childhood system is a network of county-wide supports and services working together to achieve better results for young children and families.

FIVE FOCUS AREAS

Physical Health Care

High-quality physical and child development services, including referrals for children with developmental concerns.

Social-Emotional Health Care

Specialized child development and mental health services that promote the social-emotional well-being of all young children.

Parent Education & Family Support

Excellent support for parents in the critical role they play in their child's overall development.

Early Care and Education

High-quality early care and educational services for children that prepare them to succeed in school and life.

Basic Needs, Economic Security & Child Safety

Access to supports and services that assist families to be safe and financially stable.



The Muskegon County Great Start Invites You to Join Their Parent Coalition

A Great Start to ensure ALL children in Muskegon County are safe, healthy, prepared, and eager to succeed in school and in life.

What is the Muskegon County Great Start?

The Muskegon County Great Start (MCGS) is a partnership between parents, schools, businesses, human service agencies, and other organizations, who work together to ensure that all of Muskegon County's youngest citizens and their families have access to services that promote school readiness through a coordinated system of community resources and support. Some of the factors that influence a child's readiness for school and success in life include:

- Early care and education
- Physical and mental health
- Family support and parent education

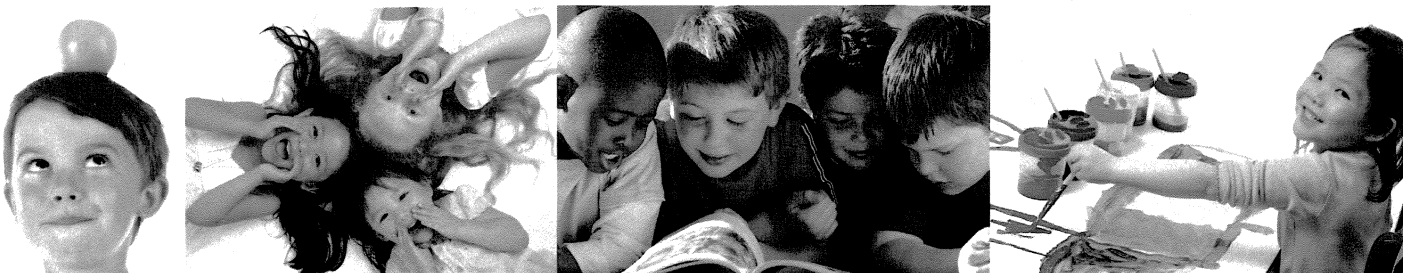
Where does the Parent Coalition fit into all of this?

As parents, we are the voices and advocates for our children. "Parents," such as mothers, fathers, grandparents, non-custodial parents, foster parents, step-parents or anyone else in a parenting role are the decision-makers for our young children, who without us would have no voice. As a grassroots advocacy group of parents, not only does the Parent Coalition work with the Muskegon County Great Start Collaborative to help support their purpose, but we also offer opportunities for parents to share information and participate in decision-making processes related to early childhood services.

Why should I join the Parent Coalition at their next meeting?

- If you are looking for ways to increase your knowledge of resources and services that could benefit children and families or if you would like to network with other parents and parent groups in Muskegon County, you should join.
- If you would like to build your leadership and advocacy skills to help benefit young children, you should join. Parents are leaders and when they speak on behalf of their own children, a group of children or when speaking out for all children. Advocacy comes in all forms, not just involving change in legislation.
- Our meetings are fun! We fill them with teaching experiences, problems to wrestle with, child and parent-friendly door prizes, and free meals! Throughout the year our meetings are scheduled on different days to allow parents with various schedules to attend. For information on our next meeting please visit www.greatstartmuskegon.org.

For more information about the Muskegon County Great Start Collaborative or to join the Parent Coalition, contact Kay Butler, Parent Liaison for the MCGS, at kbutler@pathwaysmi.org or 231-728-7152 ext. 102 or visit our website at www.greatstartmuskegon.org for details on our next meeting.



Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana

Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana delivers a high quality preschool program that enables children to achieve their full potential. It is a comprehensive child development program that serves income eligible preschool age children and their families.

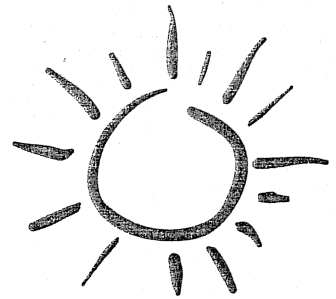
The overall goal is to prepare children, emotionally, physically and intellectually for school. The program focuses on early childhood education and development, with medical, dental, mental health, and nutrition services. This family-centered program is provided in partnership with parents and the community. Parent involvement is encouraged in all aspects of the program, from classroom to decision making about program policies.

Muskegon Area Intermediate School District Head Start Program currently serves 924 three and four year old children from Muskegon and Oceana Counties. The classrooms are located in the local school districts as part of their early childhood program. Transportation is provided for all children. Children with disabilities are welcomed in the Head Start program and are supported by local school districts.

For more information please call:

Fruitport	865-4102	North Muskegon	893-0515
Hart	873-6340	Oakridge	760-1787
Holton	893-0515	Orchard View	760-1787
Mona Shores	865-4102	Ravenna	760-1787
Montague	893-0515	Reeths-Puffer	893-0515
Muskegon	720-2560	Shelby	861-6629
Muskegon Heights	830-3300	Whitehall	893-0515

Choosing Your Future



Michigan Rehabilitation Services

"Planning Student-Directed Transitions to Adult Life"

1. What are transition services?

"Transition services means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation.

In Michigan, the transition process focuses on the four major life roles: employment, post-school adult living, community participation, and post-secondary education.

2. What makes transition so important?

When the 1997 and 2004 amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) were passed, Congress affirmed the national interest in ensuring that students with disabilities were supported in achieving economic self-sufficiency and independent living.

3. Who is eligible to receive transition services?

Schools are required by law to consider transition needs and services for students no later than age sixteen. Students, who have disabilities, but are not eligible for special education services -- or decline to participate in special education, may be covered by Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act.

4. What kinds of services do students receive as a part of their transition planning?

Plans are individualized and services will differ based on the needs of the student. For example, a student might participate in independent living training (post-school adult living skills), career planning (to select a vocational goal), job shadowing (to learn more first-hand about job options), a summer work experience, and create a plan to reach a goal that requires a college degree. Another student might participate in a vocational preparation program to learn core work behaviors, complete a work evaluation to identify possible job goals, begin vocational training in a specific area, participate in work-study, or move to supported employment after leaving high school.

For more information on transition services, please contact: Sonji Ali, Rehabilitation Counselor
MICHIGAN REHABILITATION SERVICES
316 Morris Avenue, Suite 250, Muskegon, MI 49440
(231) 722-2013 • TTY/TDD (231) 722-3592 • FAX (231) 722-3620 • TOLL FREE 1-800-810-4349
www.michigan.gov

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Programs to Help Families and Individuals Lead Healthy, Happy Lives

Michigan State University Extension, Children, Youth, Families and Communities Programs can help you learn more about:

- Eating healthy and being physically active
- Feeding your family on a budget
- Keeping food safe
- Breastfeeding your baby
- Parenting
- Managing your money
- Health
- Youth Leadership through 4H

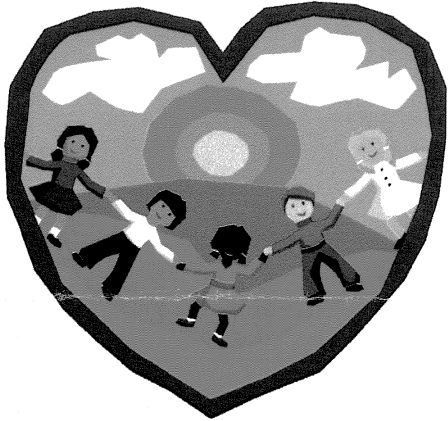


For more information, call the MSU Extension Office in Muskegon County at 231.724.6361

Visit us on the web at: www.msue.msu.edu/muskegon

Bringing Knowledge to Life!

Parenting with Purpose



What is Parenting with Purpose?

This program is designed to assist parents with sensible, down-to earth applicable solutions to parenting questions

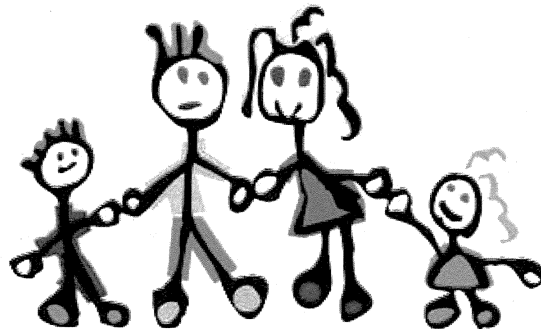
Parenting with Purpose helps build a positive relationship between parents and children through one-on-one home visits or in a small group setting.

A monthly parent group providing education, resource information and support is held on the second Monday of the month, September through May.

If you have questions or are interested in participating in this free program, call 231.724.4735 or 231.724.6643

Topics Available:

- Parenting Styles
- Communication Kid Style
- Skills to Build Cooperation
- Developmental Stages
- Building Self-Esteem
- Positive Discipline Strategies
- Child Safety
- Setting Family Goals
- Emotion Coaching
- Tips for Teaching Good Behavior
- Teaching Independence
- Crying
- Enough Sleep is Really Important
- Toilet Training
- Lying
- Stealing
- Biting
- Temper Tantrums
- And more



This program is partially funded by grants from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and the Gerber Foundation.

MOKA Employment Services

We See the Individual in Everyone



MOKA is a nonprofit charitable agency serving persons with disabilities in a ten county area in western Michigan. Founded in 1978 by a small group of concerned parents and citizens, MOKA has grown to be a leader in the field of disabilities. Programs operated by MOKA are accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

One of the many programs/divisions of MOKA is Employment Services. MOKA Employment Services focuses on two main areas: Job Development and Community Skill Building.

Job development primarily focuses on locating and creating individual job matches suited to each employee's career desires. We use the individual's Person Centered Plan and Individual Employment Plan to design options that work for them.

The individual will be assigned a job developer, who will help determine what options are needed to find and keep a job. This job developer will work with the individual on a continuous basis until the individual finds a job.



Obtaining a new job can be exciting and scary all at the same time.

We want to help the individual make this transition successfully so we may have a job coach work with the individual to help him/her learn their new job responsibilities and the employer's expectations.

We will visit the individual while they are working. We may work with the individual on some of their shifts too. We will call them and follow up with them to make sure that if they have any questions/concerns regarding their new job that they have someone to talk to.



Community Skill Building is designed to equip people with skills that allow them to be contributing members of their community. Self awareness, trust, and appropriate personal boundaries are all part of the discovery process of the participants. Skill building teaches employment skills and helps individuals learn more about themselves.

We use the individual's Person Centered Plan to design options that work for them. Using the community as the classroom is the best way to learn about how to be a part of the community. Their time will be spent in neighborhood businesses, fitness centers, volunteer sites, museums, libraries and other community locations. We also provide some instruction time on life skills.

The individual's input and interests are used in the planning of activities with their Mentor. Our focus is to help the individual learn the skills to achieve their goals, empower them to make decisions, and give back to the community. Skill building is offered Monday through Friday from 9:00am-3:00pm with transportation to and from your home before and after program hours.

Community Skill Building encompasses two programs: Endeavor and E2. Endeavor builds community awareness and results in improved health. The second, more advanced option called "E2" builds core competencies and prepares individuals interested in entering the job market for real work.

ENDEAVOR: Personal Growth & Development

Endeavor focuses on relationships, interaction, and life skills that enable participants to become more involved and accepted in their community. Experiences such as volunteering enable meaningful integration.

Endeavor Goals

- Explore the community and increase mobility
- Participate in a volunteer site
- Self growth through the arts
- Increase physical fitness and stamina
- Increase self-awareness
- Increase healthy relationships and boundaries
- Promote good hygiene and healthy living habits

E2: Explore & Empower

E2 focuses on helping individuals discover their own abilities, self-worth, work goals and life plans. Participants explore job search tools, the interview process, career exploration, and job readiness.

E2 Goals

- Vocational exploration
- Job readiness
- Explore the community and increase mobility
- Increase employability through volunteer work
- Self-discovery through the arts
- Increase physical fitness and stamina
- Increase self-awareness
- Promote good hygiene and healthy living habits

For more information about our exciting programs, feel free to contact us below:



MOKA Employment Services
3391 Merriam Street
Muskegon, MI 49444
(800) 576-3498
www.moka.org

moka

Nicole Knights, Division Manager

231-830-9339 x617

nknights@moka.org

Skill Building Coordinators:

Joni McCollum

231-830-9339 x613

jmcollum@moka.org

Stacy Burns

231-830-9339 x619

sburns@moka.org

D'Erika Nichols-Lewis

231-830-9339 x612

dnlewis@moka.org

Job Developers:

Lori Grimm

231-733-3172

lgrimm@moka.org

Darrin Miller

231-733-3173

dmiller@moka.org



**Muskegon Area
Intermediate School District**
630 Harvey Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49442-4278
Phone 231-777-2637 Fax 231.773.1028
www.muskegonisd.org

**Muskegon Area Intermediate School District
Assistive Technology Services**

We provide support for students with a variety of disabilities enrolled in Muskegon County Schools. Within this role, we partner with school staff and parents to maximize student participation in their education. We evaluate individual needs based on educational placement in the areas of:

- Communication
- Reading
- Math
- Writing
- Computer Access

As needed, services may extend into the home and include family participation in the prescribed intervention.

We provide consultative services and training to local school district staff to enhance educational practices.

For more information contact the Assistive Technology Team, at 231-767-7246.



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Autism Services

At Muskegon Intermediate School District the Autism Spectrum Disorder Consultants work in cooperation with local school districts in Muskegon County to provide consultation on best practice services and programming for students with ASD. Services are provided for student's ages 0-26 in a variety of settings. Evaluations for educational identification of ASD are provided through the local district Special Education director.

What is Autism?

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that usually manifests by the age of three. It is a spectrum disorder, meaning that the symptoms and characteristics of autistic behavior can appear in a very wide variety of forms, from mild to severe. It affects an individual's understanding of what is seen, heard and sensed. It results in problems with verbal and non-verbal communication skills, reasoning and learning skills, social interactions and abnormal responses to sensations.

What is Aspergers?

Aspergers is a neurobiological disorder, which falls at the 'high end' of the autistic spectrum. Individuals with Aspergers have difficulty in social skills, have difficulties with transitions or changes and prefer sameness. They may be preoccupied with a particular subject of interest. They have great difficulty reading non-verbal cues (body language) and determining proper body space. They have difficulty with sensory (sounds, tastes, smells, lights, touch). A person with Aspergers perceives the world very differently because of their high degree of functionality. Those with Aspergers are often viewed as eccentric or odd. While language development appears normal, individuals with Aspergers often have deficits in pragmatics (social languages) and comprehension skills. They can be extremely literal and have difficulty using language in a social context. IQ is generally at grade level or above.

discover what you do best, discover your interests, discover your dreams!

Graduation will be here before you know it. There are many decisions, choices and opportunities in your future that await you. Sooner or later you will be thinking about the kind of job you want, where you want to live, and how you will get around. You might be considering college or trade school.

Wouldn't it be great to have help now with these decisions?



Transition Planning

is the process of preparing a student for a successful adult life to:

- ▲ Live independently
- ▲ Continue education
- ▲ Be employed
- ▲ Access community

Why wait for graduation day? Now is the best time to start looking for opportunities and making plans. The year you turn 16, you will be asked to help develop your own **Transition Plan** as a part of your *Individualized Educational Program (IEP)*. Every year your plan will be reviewed and updated to match your post-high school vision. Your *IEP/Transition Plan* is about you, your education, and your future. Since it's all about you, you should have a say in what is happening. Don't let others make plans for you without your input. Your *IEP/Transition plan* will be the first step to help you reach your dreams for the future after high school.

the law and IDEA 2004 (individuals with disabilities education act) what it means to you

Transition Services

The term **Transition Services** means a **coordinated** set of activities for a student with a disability. It is designed to be a **results-oriented** process that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student with a disability. The goal is to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment, continuing and adult education, adult service, independent living, or community participation.

Transition Services are based on the individual student's needs, taking into account the student's **strengths, preferences, and interests**. They include instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

Each student beginning no later than the first **Individualized Educational Program (IEP)** to be in effect when the student is 16 years old, and updated annually thereafter, will have appropriate, measurable, **post-secondary goals** based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and where appropriate, independent living skills.

Course of Study/EDP

All students by age 14, have completed an **Educational Development Plan (EDP)** that includes career goals, educational goals, career assessment and exploration, and a **Course of Study** to assist the student in reaching his or her goals. At future IEP meetings, the Course of Study must be reviewed and re-aligned with the student's current outcomes, visions, and goals.

Age of Majority

Beginning no later than one year before the student reaches the age of majority (18 yrs) under Michigan State law, a statement that the student has been informed of his or her rights that will transfer to the student on reaching the age of majority.

Summary of Performance

A local school shall provide the student with a summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance, which shall include recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting their postsecondary goals.

MAISD
Muskegon Area
Intermediate School District
620 Harvey Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49442-4278
Phone 231-777-3637 Fax 231-778-1038
www.maisd.org/maisd



Transition after high school

What kind of job do you want?

Where will you live?

How will you get around?

Will you go to college or trade school?

Who can you ask for help?

Fruitport Community Schools
Holton Public Schools
Mona Shores Public Schools
Montague Area Public Schools
Muskegon Public Schools
Muskegon Heights Public Schools
North Muskegon Public Schools
Oakridge Public Schools

Orchard View Schools
Ravenna Public Schools
Reeths-Puffer Schools
Whitehall District Schools
WayPoint Academy
Three Oaks Academy
Timberland Charter Academy

CREATE A VISION!

education after high school

- ▲ Talk to your high school guidance counselor
- ▲ Visit or apply to a college; investigate enrollment process, financial aid, and other available support
- ▲ Investigate cosmetology, truck driving, or other trade school
- ▲ Investigate Michigan Career and Technical Institute
- ▲ Gather required paperwork for support services/ accommodations in college
- ▲ Identify learning style and possible assistive technology
- ▲ Improve time management and organizational skills
- ▲ Investigate military options for further education and training
- ▲ Investigate community adult education classes
- ▲ Take the SAT or ACT with or without accommodations
- ▲ Know how to advocate for yourself



getting involved in the community

- ▲ Contact **Volunteer Muskegon** at 722-6600
- ▲ Investigate community **civic and social** organizations (Lions, Rotary, Elks, Jaycees, Kiwanis)
- ▲ Investigate community **sports teams** or organizations (Bowling, Softball, Walking Club)
- ▲ Contact **No More Sidelines** at 724-7142
- ▲ Join the **Leisure and Recreation Club (LARC)** 773-5355 Ext 16
- ▲ Join an **exercise** class, Yoga, YMCA, Fitness Center
- ▲ **Investigate** 4-H, Toastmasters, or a Church Group
- ▲ Call a friend and visit the Muskegon Art Museum, Hackley/ Hume Homes, USS Silversides or other community attraction
- ▲ **Identify and visit potential post-school providers** of recreational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy or occupational therapy and potential funding sources
- ▲ **Identify possible sources of support** for coping with difficult life situations for counseling services or drug/alcohol abuse
- ▲ Call Arc/Muskegon at 777-2006 to learn how to ride the MATS Bus and receive the community calendar of events.

agencies that can help

Community Mental Health (ACCESS) 720-3200

Supported Employment, community living supports, specialized housing, respite, family subsidy, case management, mental health counseling

Michigan Rehabilitation Services 722-2013

Employment training, counseling, and placement

Arc/Muskegon 777-2006

Information/referral, parent support group, direct support services, advocacy, guardianship

Disability Connection 722-0088

Advocacy, information/referral, empowerment training, accessibility issues, independent living workshops

Social Security Administration 759-2525

Social Security, Social Security disability, SSI applications and eligibility

Department of Human Services 733-3700

Medicaid, food stamps, child care subsidy, Home Help Services

getting ready for employment

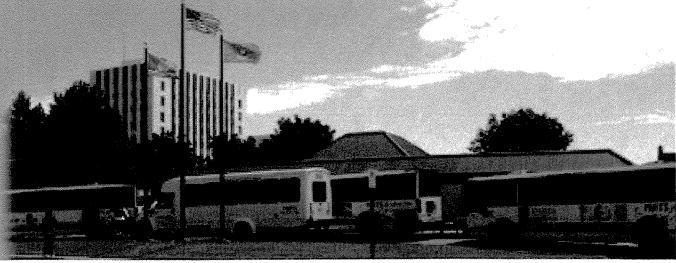
- ▲ Complete/update **Education Development Plan (EDP)**
- ▲ Research careers, complete interest surveys and vocational assessments on careercruising.com
- ▲ Know your disability and accommodations
- ▲ Tour businesses
- ▲ Attend career fairs
- ▲ Talk to your parents and relatives about their career experiences
- ▲ Take part in job shadows
- ▲ Practice filling out job applications
- ▲ Prepare a resume and practice interviewing skills
- ▲ Contact **Michigan Rehabilitation Services** to discuss eligibility, 722-2013
- ▲ Visit/attend the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center, 767-3600
- ▲ Volunteer
- ▲ Find out how employment will change Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits



living independently

- ▲ Investigate housing options, security deposits, utility hookups, supported living
- ▲ Maintain medical information, health insurance, first aid, emergency assistance, and medications
- ▲ Learn money skills, how to budget, pay bills, and banking
- ▲ Cook, grocery shop, learn food storage and nutrition
- ▲ Purchase and maintain clothing by mending, doing laundry and ironing
- ▲ Purchase and maintain a car, insurance, and repairs
- ▲ Explore adaptive or assistive technology for independent living
- ▲ Identify pre-occupancy needs: furniture, kitchenware, linens, supplies
- ▲ At age 18 register for the draft (every male regardless of disability)
- ▲ At age 18 register to vote and learn about the election process
- ▲ Explore guardianship, estate planning, wills and trusts

MATS
Wherever life takes you.
Muskegon Area Transit System



Muskegon Area Transit System (MATS) is a Department of Muskegon County and is authorized to provide public mass transportation services. MATS currently operates bus service on nine fixed routes with a 100 percent accessible fleet. MATS service area includes the City of Muskegon, Muskegon Heights, Roosevelt Park, Norton Shores, Muskegon Township and Fruitport Township.

For more information call 231-724-6420 or visit MATS on the Internet at www.MATSBUS.com

Muskegon Area Transit System - MATS

2624 Sixth Street
Muskegon Heights, MI 49444
Ph (231) 724-6420
Fax (231) 830-1607





Muskegon Community College

Special Services is an important part of the broad range of services offered at Muskegon Community College. Our goal is to provide effective services, materials, and resources which enable students who are members of Special Populations to be successful.

JANICE W. ALEXANDER, LPC

Coordinator/Counselor

Room 101A, (231) 777-0309

E-mail: Janice.Alexander@muskegoncc.edu

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- Individual with a disability;
- Individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including foster children;
- Nontraditional training and employment participants;
- Single parents, including single pregnant women;
- Displaced homemakers;
- Individuals with other barriers to educational achievement, including individuals with limited English proficiency.

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Personal counseling
- Academic advising
- Assistance with testing
- Classroom accommodations
- Sign language interpreters
- Attendance costs
- Peer tutorial and/or Professional Instructional assistance
- Note taker services when needed
- Readers
- Writers
- Assistance with accessing books on tape
- Liaison services with community agencies, including Michigan Rehabilitation Services
- Other specialized support services as deemed necessary following an assessment of the student's special needs
- Some of the tools available include Kurzweil Reader, an institutional membership for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexia, TDD telephone, ZoomText software, Jaws, Dragon, Naturally Speaking, and Scan and Read software

For more information regarding services, or to schedule an appointment, call 231.777.0404 or 777.0309. VOICE: 231.777.0410 TDD

Sports by ability...not disability!



JOIN THE MUSKEGON WAVES TEAM!

BOCCIA... TRACK & FIELD EVENTS... POWERLIFTING... BOWLING & MORE!

The Michigan Victory Games is a sporting competition for athletes with various abilities through out the state! Athletes with Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, Traumatic Brain Injury, Stroke and various other physical disabilities qualify to compete. Athletes may be ages 7 through adult.

The Victory Games have been around since the 1970s and have helped develop athletes who have also gone on to compete at National and International level competitions, such as the World Games and the US Paralympics. The Muskegon Waves practice together through out the year in preparation for the Victory Games at Michigan State University in May.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ATHLETES TO JOIN THE MUSKEGON TEAM!

**PRACTICES EVERY OTHER WEEK AT WESLEY SCHOOL GYM
SEPTEMBER – MAY**

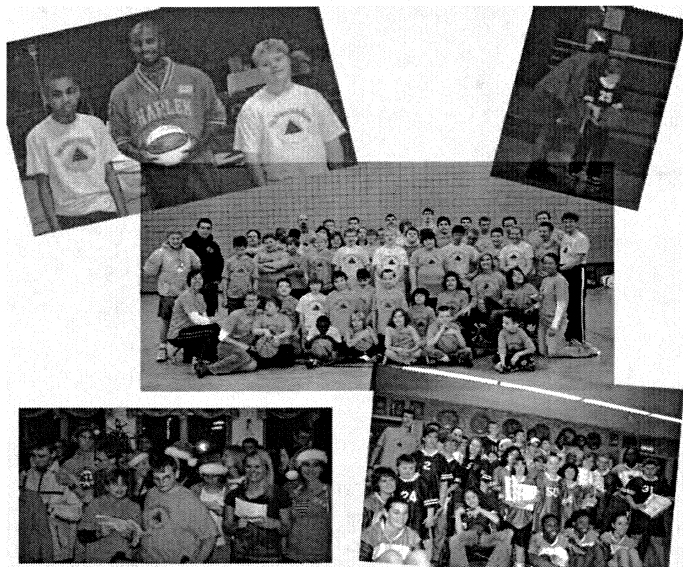
**CONTACT KATIE ELLIS FOR MORE INFORMATION
231-414-4767 OR Kellis@muskegonisd.org**

Visit www.michiganvictorygames.com for more information.

No More Sidelines

Friendship
Community
Team

It's my turn to play



"It's a place where my child finally belongs."

"I no longer feel so alone."

"They accept each other no matter what."

"He plays better with kids."

Friendship (frënd'ship) - One who supports, sympathizes with, or patronizes a group, cause, or movement.

friendship

"Without No More Sidelines he probably wouldn't get the chance."

"They're doing the same things their siblings are."

"When our kids are on the field, you can just feel the goose bumps."

"They've gained a lot of self-confidence."

"No More Sidelines lets them have the same opportunity socially and athletically as their peers."

Team (tām) - A group organized to work together.

Com-mu-ni-ty (kə-myōōn-i-tē) - A population living and interacting with one another.

team

community



"Get to meet other siblings of special-needs kids."

OUR GOAL

We strive to level the playing field in the lives of special-needs children in West Michigan. We want their acceptance as members of our community to be the norm, not the exception and inclusion in all aspects of our daily lives. It is our responsibility to encourage them to reach above the limits set by society.



"Definitely means my child is more active and loves it."



THE BEGINNING

In January 2006, Alivia Blair expressed her desire to have friendships and do all the things she saw her brothers and sisters doing. Her mother, Cyndi Blair, set out to make sure Alivia had all the opportunities afforded to mainstream kids. And so, No More Sidelines began.



"He loves his friends!"

OUR MISSION

No More Sidelines is committed to helping special-needs children become accepted members of our community and to reach beyond the limits set by society. We provide them with the opportunity to participate in sports and community events year round that nurture friendships.

Basketball
Track & Field
Bocce Ball
Soccer
Bowling
Softball

Camp
Horseback riding
Lumberjacks Games
Thunder Football Games
Christmas Caroling
Movies
Dances

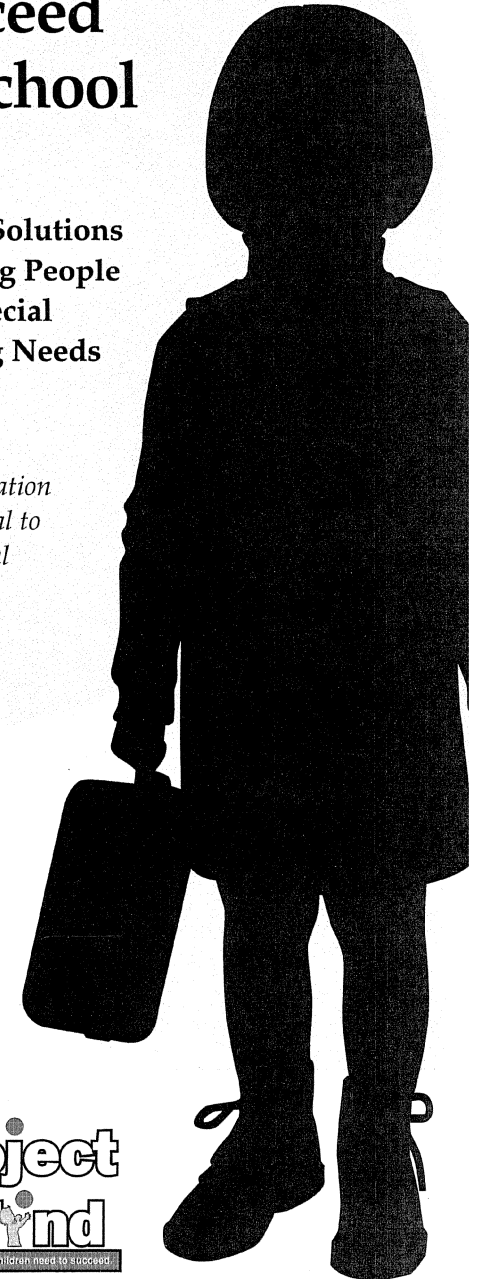
514 Second St, N Muskegon, MI 49445
www.nomoresidelines.org

231-724-7142

Helping Young People Succeed in School

**Special Solutions
for Young People
with Special
Learning Needs**

*Free Evaluation
and Referral to
Educational
Services*



Local Contact Information

Muskegon County *Project Find/Child Find*
630 Harvey Street
Muskegon, MI 49442
(231) 767-7253
Louanne Utzinger or Monica Jenkins

Free for Young People From Birth to Age 26

Project Find is looking for young people from birth to 26 years of age who have physical, social, emotional, or learning conditions that prevent them from succeeding in school.

These young people may be eligible for free educational services provided by Michigan Public Schools.

Call 1-800-252-0052

Project Find Michigan
1-800-252-0052
www.ProjectFindMichigan.org
Fax: 517-668-0446
TTY: 517-668-2505 service available for persons with hearing and/or speech difficulties.



Everyone can learn.



The Michigan Department of Education complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

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Young People Develop at Different Rates

Sometimes, a young person can have more difficulty learning than others do. He or she may have difficulty seeing or hearing, as well as difficulty getting along with others, or learning in school. These are reasons for concern.

The earlier these concerns are identified, the sooner special educational resources can be initiated. A unique educational program then can be designed to meet the specific needs of a young person finding difficulty in learning.

Why Is an Evaluation Important?

Project Find refers individuals for a free evaluation to help identify specific conditions that prevent a young person from learning. The evaluation is the first step in getting the help he or she needs. A free evaluation is available for individuals from birth to age 26.

For those who qualify after the evaluation, the public school system helps find special programs and educational services to meet the individual's needs so he or she can receive the best possible education.

Information Is Confidential

All information contained in the evaluation and educational program is confidential.

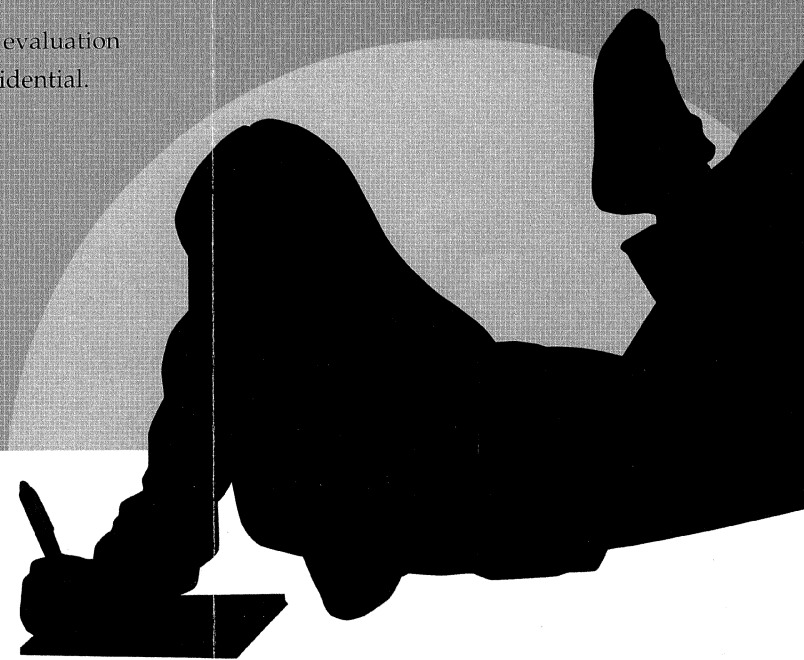
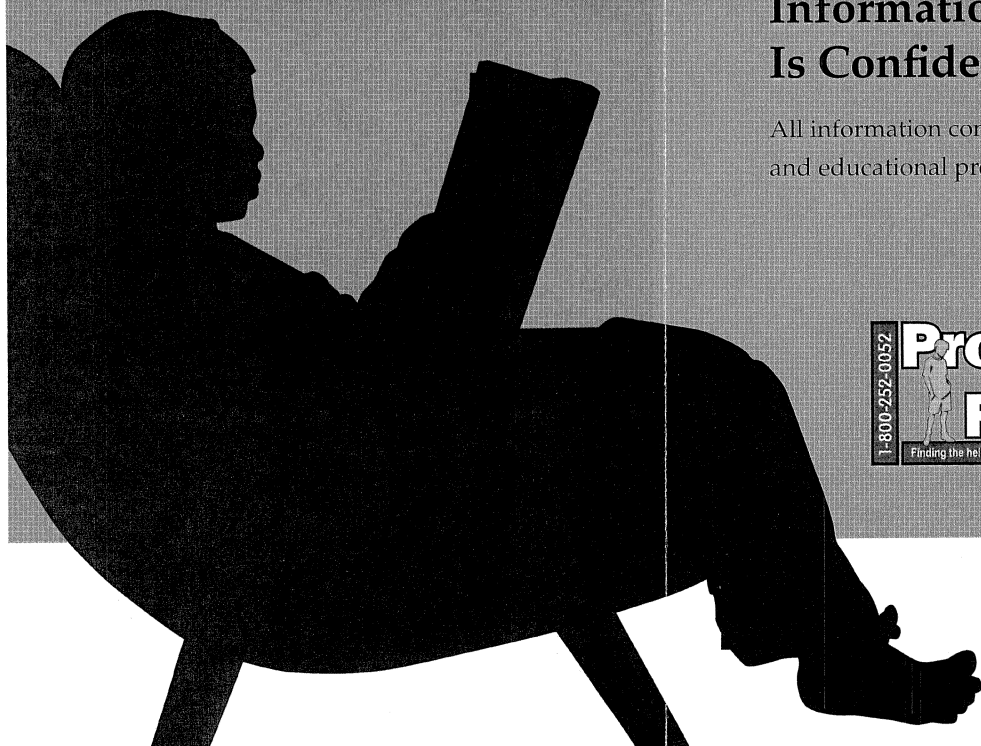
Who Can Help?

Anyone can refer individuals, birth to age 26, for special educational services. It can be a parent, a foster parent, a teacher, a counselor, a friend, a relative, or the person who finds learning difficult.

Call 1-800-252-0052 (TTY: 517-668-2505) to talk with someone who can help, or visit www.ProjectFindMichigan.org

On the Web site, you can find a local coordinator near you, and referral information that can get you started.

Everyone can learn.



Belief Statements

We Believe . . .

- *All children deserve a quality education.*
- *Special education students are children first. The disability is secondary.*
- *Students, parents, school personnel, and community resources should cooperate to maximize the potential of each and every child.*



SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Muskegon Area ISD

Special Education
Kathy Fortino, Director 767-7250
Carolyn Smith-Gerdes, Assistant Director . . . 767-7249

Fruitport Community Schools

Oakridge Public Schools
Orchard View Public Schools
Ravenna Public Schools
Cynthia Smith, Ph.D., Director
Special Education 865-4013

Holton Public Schools

Montague Area Public Schools
North Muskegon Public Schools
Reeths-Puffer Schools
Whitehall District Schools
Nadine Harris, Director
Special Education 719-3143

Mona Shores Public Schools

Penelope Miller-Smith, Director
Educational/Student Services 780-4751
ext. 8220

Muskegon Public Schools

Larry Foster, Director
Special Education 720-2010

Muskegon Heights Public Schools

Daniel Perono, Ph.D., Director
Special Education 830-3214

MUSKEGON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIES

Three Oaks Academy 767-3365
Timberland Academy 767-9700
WayPoint Academy. 777-4972



Muskegon Area
Intermediate School District
630 Harvey Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49442-4278
Phone 231-777-2637 Fax 231.773.1028
www.muskegonisd.org



Special Education Parent Advisory Committee



*Parents
Supporting
Parents*

Who We Are:

We are parents of children with disabilities. We have been selected by your local district administrators and approved by your local school board. Contact us when you have questions or concerns.

2009-10 Representatives

Fruitport Community Schools

Sally Olsen 788-5346

Holton Public Schools

Julie Brantman 206-6969

Mona Shores Public Schools

Open

Montague Area Public Schools

Mary Dandron 893-6469

Muskegon Public Schools

Open

Muskegon Heights Public Schools

Kristi Sargent 737-9348

North Muskegon Public Schools

Stacy Burns 744-7895

Oakridge Public Schools

Mary Thompson 788-4258

Orchard View Schools

Melissa Bengtson 773-6839

Ravenna Public Schools

Laura Peterson 853-0526

Reeths-Puffer Schools

Open

Waypoint Academy

Leon Tabler 773-2530

Whitehall District Schools

Mark Gilland 766-3747

Members-At-Large

Jean Anthony 821-0253

Ollie Dunbar 733-8170

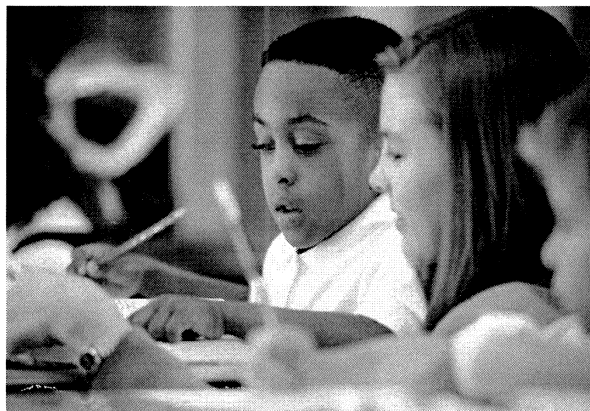
Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

Authorization

The SEPAC is authorized under the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education. Its purpose is to provide a formal mechanism for parent input to the ISD Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services.

Mission Statement

The MAISD SEPAC strives to represent the interests and concerns of students with special needs and their parents. It also strives to promote partnerships between parents, students, the local school district, and the MAISD by facilitating communication and cooperation.



The SEPAC:

- Stresses cooperation between parents, school personnel, and other service providers.
- Listens and offers support to parents of special education students.
- Encourages, advises, and provides information for parents of students in special education.

Questions regarding SEPAC or parent concerns regarding special education services may be directed to any committee member or to the MAISD.



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Phone 231-777-2637 Fax 231.773.1028
www.muskegonisd.org

It is the policy of the MAISD that no staff member, candidate for employment, program participant, or recipient of services shall experience discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed or ancestry, age, gender, height, weight, marital status, or disability. The MAISD is an equal opportunity employer. Inquiries related to issues of discrimination on the basis of disability should be directed to the Assistant Director for Special Education at (231) 767-7249. All other discrimination inquiries or requests for special accommodations to participate in a program, event, or activity should be directed to the Human Resources Program Director at (231) 767-7213.

An important aspect of education planning for infants through young adults (birth to age 26) with special needs is communication. Your ability as a parent, educator or service provider to communicate effectively when creating and implementing an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individualized Education Program (IEP) can affect the quality of a young person's development and education.

Westshore Dispute Resolution and the Brian P. Mattson Restorative Justice Center through the Michigan Special Education Mediation Program, provides services for building constructive relationships.

Facilitation can help the parties develop the best plan for the circumstances. A neutral facilitator helps participants with communication so the participants can focus on resolving the planning or resolution session issues.

Mediation aids the parties in resolving disputes that may arise from IFSP or IEP implementation. Mediation is voluntary and confidential. The neutral mediator fosters cooperative discussion. The parties alone make the final decisions. If they can not reach a decision, the parties can move on to the hearing or complaint process.

Training - Learning collaborative communication and dispute resolution techniques can make parents, educators and service providers more effective in planning and decision making. Workshops can be adapted to the particular needs of parent, educator provider or other group.

Mediation, Facilitation and Training services are provided at no cost in early intervention and special education through a federally funded project of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services.

When you request a facilitation or mediation, a trained staff person will collect information about who needs to be at the table, the basic issues in dispute and whether a hearing has been scheduled or a complain filed. The staff person will explain the options for selecting a mediator or furnish the roster of mediators if requested. The staff person will also explain what to expect in mediation, inform you about the role of attorneys and advocates in the process and make the arrangements for the mediation sessions.

For more information contact:

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