

# Great Start Newsletter



Crawford.Oscoda.Ogemaw.Roscommon.Iosco Counties

## Peanut Butter and Jam

Working with local parents and community leaders, the Roscommon County Chapter of the Great Start Parent Coalition hosted Peanut Butter & JAM on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at Artesia Youth Park in Houghton Lake. Nearly 100 parents and children were greeted with free live music, puppets, arts and crafts and food donated by Buccilli's Pizza and Best Choice Market Place.

Many early childhood education experts consider music and movement essential in developing listening skills, gross motor skills, social skills and even self-esteem. In today's world where music programs are being cut left and right, this event was an example of how a small community can keep the positive power of music in their children's lives.

Beginning January 2010, parent volunteers and Artesia Youth Park will host Peanut Butter & JAM on a monthly basis. The passion to keep this idea alive is coming from parents, Artesia and local business owners. The Houghton Lake Methodist Church will sponsor the January event by providing food and crafts. The Houghton Lake Lions Club donated \$100 in support of the effort, and VanDrie Home Furnishing has donated rugs for the children to sit on during the performances.

If you or anyone you know is interested in sponsoring, donating or volunteering at Peanut Butter & JAM, please call Janna Clark at 917-750-5793 or Artesia Youth Park at 989-757-0550

### Save the Date Events

January 26, 2011 Great Start Collaborative Meeting 1-12. @ KCC House

April 16th: Early Childhood Conference 9-3 @ KCC

May 9th: Virtual Tour for Legislatures

May 19: Star Power in Lansing

Check out our website and event calendar:

<http://kidsgreatstart.org>



# Advocacy:

“ active support of an idea or cause “

(wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn)

## Ways to advocate for your child(ren):

1. Support leadership that cares for young children and their families.
2. Know the issues affecting young children and their families on local, state and federal levels. Read the local paper. Find out how legislative decisions impact young children and families. Follow important issues during the legislative session as hot political issues often get introduced as legislative bills and can be ratified into law or voted out quickly.
3. Build your knowledge base today.
4. If you are a Chamber member, attend State and Local Legislative Committee meetings to ensure the county has a focus on early care and education. If you are not a member, consider joining to have your voice heard.
5. Contact your local County Commissioners to ask for their support in making early care and education a priority for our county.
6. Volunteer your time to help organizations that serve young children, especially around an issue or service you care about. Write a letter to a legislator or the media.
7. Engaging the public around key issues takes time and resources. Help pass along important information within your networks to engage more people to care about services for young children.
8. If you know a young child that has been impacted by a local service that supported his or her success in kindergarten, urge the family to voice their story with their legislators and media.
9. Donate to advocacy organizations. Donations make it possible for advocacy efforts to happen. Non profits must use unrestricted funds for advocacy activities.
10. When decisions are pending and you receive a call for help, call, email, write, or visit your local legislators and voice your concern/support. Most often, you have to act fast!

## How do you advocate for your child?

[http://www.google.com/search?source=ig&hl=en&rlz=1G1GGLQ\\_ENUS282&=&q=How+to+advocate+for+your+child&btnG=Google+Search#scient=psy&hl=en&rlz=1G1GGLQ\\_ENUS282&q=Ways+to+advocate+for+your+children&aq=f&aqj=&aqi=&oq=&gs\\_rfai=&pbx=1&fp=9111c1d610a8252](http://www.google.com/search?source=ig&hl=en&rlz=1G1GGLQ_ENUS282&=&q=How+to+advocate+for+your+child&btnG=Google+Search#scient=psy&hl=en&rlz=1G1GGLQ_ENUS282&q=Ways+to+advocate+for+your+children&aq=f&aqj=&aqi=&oq=&gs_rfai=&pbx=1&fp=9111c1d610a8252)

