



2025-2026

# Flowers Early Learning Family Resource Book

A guide to services, support, and opportunities for  
families in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties



775 Hazen St Paw Paw



269-657-2581



[flowersearlylearning.org](http://flowersearlylearning.org)



# Congratulations

## *Welcome to the Flowers Early Learning Family*

At Flowers Early Learning we are more than a preschool – we are a partner in your child’s development and educational journey. We understand that parents are a child’s first and most important teachers, and your involvement is essential to your child’s success in school and beyond. That’s why, through our Early Education program, we offer more than early education. In addition to a dedicated teaching team preparing your child for kindergarten, you will be supported by a Family Advocate (FA) or Home Visitor (HV) for those in our Home-Based program. Your FA or HV will be your connection to community resources, work with you to identify your family’s strengths, and help you set and achieve meaningful goals through this program year. Together, we are building a strong foundation for your child’s future!

*We are deeply committed to your child’s education and your family’s success –  
we are honored to be on this journey with you.*

Your Family Advocate/Home Visitor is: \_\_\_\_\_

Their Contact information is: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Child’s School Location is: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Child’s School/Home Visiting Hours are: \_\_\_\_\_

This Family Resource Book is provided to you to offer information about resources that may be useful for your family. Please reach out to your Family Advocate/HV if you have questions or need further information and they can assist you in finding the appropriate resource to best fit your needs. Additionally, your input is critical to the success of our organization and the community. If there is a service or resource that you feel should be included in future Family Resource Books please let us know, your ideas are important to us.



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## Michigan 2-1-1

Michigan 2-1-1 is a free, confidential service that connects you with local community-based organizations across the state offering thousands of different programs and services for people seeking answers. To connect with Michigan 2-1-1 you can either call 211, or visit their website at [www.mi211.org](http://www.mi211.org).

# Family Well-Being

Parents and families are safe, healthy, and have increased financial security.

## Economic Mobility – Employment, Budget, Finance

- Michigan Works! Employment Services (800)285-9675
- Telamon Corporation (Grand Rapids) (616)327-3702  
[www.telamon.org](http://www.telamon.org)
- Job Search Websites
  - [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)
  - [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)
  - [www.ziprecruiter.com](http://www.ziprecruiter.com)
  - [www.simplyhired.com](http://www.simplyhired.com)
  - [www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com)
  - [www.snagajob.com](http://www.snagajob.com)
  - [www.michiganworks.org](http://www.michiganworks.org)
  - [www.kinexus.org](http://www.kinexus.org)
  - [www.michigan.gov/leo](http://www.michigan.gov/leo)
  - [www.career.teamtailor.com](http://www.career.teamtailor.com)

## Child Abuse & Domestic Violence

To help with obtaining Personal Protective Orders, crisis intervention, case management, housing placement, emergency shelters, and referral to job training and education.

- Child Help National Child Abuse Hotline (800)422-4453  
[www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)
- Child Protective Services (855)444-3911
- National Domestic Violence Hotline (800)799-7233  
[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)  
Text “start” to 88788
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (800)843-5678  
[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)
- National Sexual Assault Hotline (877)995-5247  
[www.safehelpline.org](http://www.safehelpline.org)

## Berrien County

- Caring Connection Empowerment Center (269)925-9500  
[www.caringconnectionmi.org](http://www.caringconnectionmi.org)
- Cora Lamping Center Sexual Assault Hotline (855)779-6495
- Cora Lamping Center (Avenue Family Network) (269)925-1725

## Cass County

- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services (DASAS) (800)828-2023  
[www.dasasmi.org](http://www.dasasmi.org)  
(serving Cass, Van Buren, and St. Joseph Counties)
- Domestic Violence Coalition in Paw Paw (269)655-9008



## Van Buren County

- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services (DASAS) (800)828-2023  
[www.dasasmi.org](http://www.dasasmi.org)  
(serving Cass, Van Buren, and St. Joseph Counties)
- Domestic Violence Coalition (269)655-9008  
[www.domesticviolencecoalition.org](http://www.domesticviolencecoalition.org)

## Clothing, Food, Household, and Personal Items

- Feeding America West Michigan  
[www.feedwm.org/findfood](http://www.feedwm.org/findfood)
- We Care I.N.C. – Bangor and South Haven (269)637-4342  
[www.wecare-inc.org](http://www.wecare-inc.org) OR (269)427-9581
- Christian Services Center (269)684-0637  
222 Clay, Niles
- Edwardsburg Food Pantry (269)699-6133  
24832 U.S. 12, Edwardsburg
- Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry and Thrift Store (269)756-7444  
301 N. Elm St, Three Oaks
- Helping Hands (269)445-8104  
130 S. Broadway, Cassopolis  
[www.helpinghandsofcasscounty.org](http://www.helpinghandsofcasscounty.org)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (888)642-7434  
[www.michigan.gov/mibridges](http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges)
- Neighbor 2 Neighbor (need a referral) (269)471-7411  
[www.n2nhelps.com](http://www.n2nhelps.com)
- Goodwill of Southwestern Michigan (269)382-0490  
[www.goodwillswmi.org](http://www.goodwillswmi.org)
- Redbud Area Ministries (269)695-5083  
708 Red Bud Trail, Buchanan
- Salvation Army (269)684-2660  
1707 Miller Dr, Niles
- Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (269)925-9077  
[www.smcaa.com](http://www.smcaa.com)
- Harbor Mission (269)426-0001  
9600 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman
- Lydia's Closet (269)415-0767  
600 E. Michigan, Paw Paw
- Eleanor's Food Pantry (269)415-0444  
211 Drew Street, Paw Paw
- Townline Resource Center (Open Tuesday 12-3) (269)521-4559  
113 W. Main Street, Breedsville
- Our Father's Family Keepers (269)476-1257  
Cass County Location, open to all counties



- Spero House (269)240-7177  
603 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Niles
- First Presbyterian Church – The Kids Closet at Ellis House (269)683-7600  
11 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Niles

## Family Emergencies & Safety

To help families experiencing emergencies and emergency preparedness and safety and injury prevention.

- American Red Cross Disaster Relief (800)733-2767  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (888)642-7434  
[www.michigan.gov/mibridges](http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges)
- Poison Control (800)222-1222  
[www.poisonhelp.org](http://www.poisonhelp.org)
- The Salvation Army (800)725-2769  
[www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)
- Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (269)925-9077  
[www.smcaa.com](http://www.smcaa.com)
- Mental Health – 24 Hour Crisis (800)922-1418  
421-421 text “hand”
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988
- Veteran Crisis Hotline 988 x1

## Berrien County

- Animal Control (269)927-5648  
1400 S. Euclid Benton Harbor

## Cass County

- Helping Hands of Cass County (269)445-8104  
130 S. Broadway, Cassopolis  
[www.helpinghandsofcasscounty.org](http://www.helpinghandsofcasscounty.org)
- R.A.D. Rape, Aggression, Defense (269)445-1201  
Through Cass County Sheriffs Office or  
[http://www.rad-systems.com/rad\\_programs.html](http://www.rad-systems.com/rad_programs.html)
- Animal Control / Humane Society (269)445-3701  
323 M-62 Cassopolis

## Van Buren County

- Animal Control (269)621-4624  
58040 Co Rd 681 Hartford

## Health (Dental)

### Berrien County

- Harbor Dental (269)927-1313  
143 E. Main, Benton Harbor
- Cynthia Liebelt DDS (269)468-6794

- 292 W. St. Joseph St, Coloma
- InterCare - Benton Harbor (269)927-5300  
800 M-139, Benton Harbor
- InterCare – Eau Claire (269)461-6927  
6270 West Main, Eau Claire
- Brite Dental (269)471-7970  
200 N. Cass Street, Berrien Springs
- Red Arrow Dentistry (269)465-3001  
9500 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman
- Niles Community Health Center (269)262-4364  
122 Grant, Niles
- Beyond Smiles (269)683-6461  
123 Marmont, Niles
- Sure Family Dental (269)262-4689  
1111 Lambert, Niles
- Dr. Jilek (269)695-3601  
121 Main St, Buchanan
- Dr. Darlene Getz (269)468-5741  
213 N. Paw Paw St., Coloma

## Cass County

- Cassopolis Dental (269)445-8636  
62225 M-62, Cassopolis
- Smile Center (269)445-5550  
110 S. Broadway St, Cassopolis
- Community Dental Clinics (888)782-0064  
302 Front St, Dowagiac
- Cass Family Clinic (269)445-3874  
261 M-62, Cassopolis

## Van Buren County

- InterCare – Bangor (269)427-7969  
308 Charles St, Bangor
- Dr. Craig Herrmann (269)427-7106  
102 Monroe St, Bangor
- Decatur Family Dentistry (269)423-7025  
321 W. Delaware St, Decatur
- Dr. Carl Druskovich (269)423-7866  
45140 M-51, Decatur
- Gobles Family Dentistry (269)628-2186  
13910 M-40 Hwy, Gobles
- Community Dental Clinic – Lawrence (269)621-3143  
260 South Street, Lawrence
- Paw Paw Family Dentistry (269)657-4001  
32800 E. Red Arrow Hwy, Paw Paw
- Dr. Jenny Grunberg (269)657-3900

- 54055 CR 653, Paw Paw
- South Haven Family Dentists (269)637-1306  
1088 Bailey St, Ste. A, South Haven
- Dr. Vern Ticknor (269)637-1281  
900 S. Bailey St, South Haven
- Dr. Norman Maly (269)637-2603  
05055 Blue Star Hwy., South Haven
- Dr. DellaVecchia Dental Services (269)857-1431  
430 Wiley Rd, Douglas

## Surrounding Areas

- InterCare – Holland (616)738-8978  
285 James St, Holland
- InterCare – Pullman (269)236-5027  
5498 109<sup>th</sup> Ave, Pullman
- Oshtemo Family Dentistry – Kalamazoo (Does not accept Medicaid) (269)372-1042  
5917 Stadium Dr, Kalamazoo
- Small Smiles – Mishawaka (574)259-5437  
2332 Miracle Lane, Mishawaka
- Kalamazoo Pediatric Dentistry (269)343-5386  
621 W. Centre Ave, Portage
- Port Pediatric Dentistry - Holland (616)392-1100  
291 Lakewood Blvd, Holland
- West Michigan Pediatric Dentistry – Holland (616)392-2381  
845 E 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Holland
- Dr. Dellavecchia (269)857-1431  
430 Wiley Rd, Douglas
- Little Red Pediatric Dentistry (616)377-7333  
12723 N Bellwood Dr Ste 20, Holland
- Pediatric Dentistry PC (269)327-4459  
5907 Oakland Dr, Kalamazoo
- Stellar Smiles Pediatric Dentistry (616)730-4111  
2380 76<sup>th</sup> Street, Bryon Center
- My Community Dental Clinic (269)273-3247  
721 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Three Rivers

## Health (Vision)

- Allegan Eyecare (269)673-5100  
123 Locust St, Allegan
- Dr. K. August (269)345-4425  
4425 W. Main St, Kalamazoo
- Floods Vision Center (269)408-8762  
2603 Niles Ave., St. Joseph
- Dr. Jeffrey Scieska (269)429-6781  
88 W. Main St. Suite 100, Benton Harbor
- Hiemstra Optical (269)657-4551

- 133 E. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw
- South Haven EyeCare Associates (269)637-1442  
1088 S. Bailey Ave, South Haven
  - Advanced Eye Care (269)982-4237  
88 W. Main St, Benton Harbor
  - Kalamazoo Valley Eyecare (269)375-3937  
4855 W. Centre Ave., Portage
  - Niles Vision Center (269)683-4040  
9 South Ave., Niles
  - Southwest Vision Center (269)414-4492  
69001 M-62, Ste. E, Edwardsburg
  - RX Optical (269)684-1330  
1421 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St, Niles

## Health (General)

- Constance Brown Hearing Center (269)343-2601  
1634 Gull Road, Kalamazoo
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (888)642-7434  
[www.michigan.gov/mibridges](http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges)
- La Leche League  
[www.llli.org](http://www.llli.org)
- MSU Extension Services  
Provides educational materials, and programs about meal planning, food storage, gardening, composting, farming, Build Strong Families, 4-H Youth Program, and Natural Resources policy.
  - Benton Harbor (269)944-4126
  - Cassopolis (269)445-4438
  - Paw Paw (269)657-8213
- Women Infants & Children (WIC)  
[www.fns.usda.gov/wic](http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic)  
Nutritional Services for children birth to five years, pregnant women, and postpartum women.
  - Benton Harbor (269)927-5646
  - Niles (269)684-2800 ext. 6511
  - Dowagiac (269)782-3374
  - Bangor (269)427-7914
  - Paw Paw (269)655-8900
  - New Buffalo (269)927-5656
- Children's Special Health Care Services
  - Berrien (269)927-6520
  - Cass & Van Buren (269)621-3143

## Berrien County

- Benton Harbor Health Center (269)926-8535
- InterCare - Benton Harbor (269)927-5400  
800 M-139, Benton Harbor
- InterCare – Eau Claire (269)461-6927

- 6270 W. Main St, Eau Claire
- Dr. Tynes - Benton Harbor (269)926-8535  
756 Pipestone Ste 2, Benton Harbor
- Corewell Health Primary Care (269)463-3600  
6701 Paw Paw Ave, Coloma
- Corewell Health Southwestern Medical Clinic – Stevensville (269)429-9677  
5515 Cleveland Ave, Stevensville
- Corewell Primary Health Long Meadow (269)684-6000  
4 Long Meadow Village Dr, Niles
- Corewell Health Southwestern (269)465-6050  
9625 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman
- Corewell Health Primary Care (269)473-2222  
9045 US Hwy 31, Berrien Springs
- Corewell Health Southwestern - Niles (269)687-0200  
1005 Moore Dr., Niles
- Corewell Health Southwestern Medical Clinic – Buchanan (269) 695-5540  
1045 E. Front, Buchanan
- Niles Community Health Clinic (269)262-4749  
1951 Oak St., Niles

## Cass County

- Cass Family Clinic (269)445-3547  
261 M-62, Cassopolis
- The Healthy Cocoon (269)246-1375  
27082 Main St, Edwardsburg
- Ascension Borgess Pediatrics Lee Medical Group – Dowagiac (269)783-3052  
420 W High St, Dowagiac
- Corewell Health Primary Care (269)390-0536  
520 Main St., Dowagiac

## Van Buren County

- InterCare – Bangor (269)427-7969  
308 Charles St, Bangor
- Bronson Cooper Family Care – Bangor (269)427-8511  
520 Railroad St, Bangor
- Bronson Lakeview Family Care – Decatur (269)423-7028  
319 W. Delaware, Decatur
- Bronson Lakeview Family Care – Paw Paw (269)657-2550  
451 Health Pkwy, Suite A, Paw Paw
- Bronson Lakeview Family Care – Mattawan (269)668-3348  
451 Health Pkwy Suite G, Mattawan
- Bronson Pediatrics – Paw Paw (269)655-3090  
451 Health Parkway, Suite E, Paw Paw
- Corewell Health Hospital Clinic (269)463-3600  
525 S. Center St, Hartford
- Bronson Pediatric – South Haven (269)639-2772  
965 S. Bailey Ave, Suite 2-4, South Haven

- Bronson Lakeview Family Care  
930 Blue Star Hwy, South Haven

(269)637-1115

## Health Departments

Health Department - Appointments are Required and some restrictions may apply. Offers a variety of services including immunizations and family planning.

- Benton Harbor (269)926-7121
- Niles (269)684-2800
- Dowagiac (269)782-0064
- Three Rivers (269)273-2161
- Lawrence (269)621-3143
- Allegan (269)673-5411

## Housing and Homelessness

To help with weatherization, repairs, emergency utilities, rent assistance, assistance in purchasing, rent subsidy, and shelter information.

- Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (800)334-7670  
[www.smcaa.com](http://www.smcaa.com)
- Rural Development – USDA (269)657-7055 ext. 4  
[www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority (855)646-7432  
[www.michigan.gov/mshda](http://www.michigan.gov/mshda)
- Housing Assessment & Resource Agency (HARA)
  - Benton Harbor (269)677-5055
  - Centerville (269)234-5023
- Buss Housing Commission – Benton Harbor (269)927-3544
- Benton Township Housing Commission (269)927-3541
- Niles Housing Commission (269)683-2783
- Lakeview Terrace – St. Joseph (269)983-2814
- Dowagiac Housing Commission (269)782-3786
- Bangor Housing Commission (269)427-5535
- Covert Public Housing (269)764-8881
- South Haven Housing Commission (269)637-5755
- HARA (SMCAA) Van Buren / Cass (269)605-4526

## Emergency Shelters

- Emergency Shelter Services – Benton Harbor (269)925-1131
- The Salvation Army (269)927-1353  
[www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)
- Domestic & Sexual Abuse Services – Cass & Van Buren Counties (800)828-2023  
[www.dasasmi.org](http://www.dasasmi.org)
- YWCA for Domestic Violence (574)233-9491
- Decatur Family Shelter (269)605-4526

## Life Goals and Aspirations

- Life Goals
  - [www.lifegoals.org](http://www.lifegoals.org)
  - [www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)
  - [www.sparkamerica.com](http://www.sparkamerica.com)
  - [www.thecoachingtoolscompany.com](http://www.thecoachingtoolscompany.com)
  - [www.positivepsychology.com](http://www.positivepsychology.com)
- Free Learning Opportunities
  - [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)
  - [www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org)
  - [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)
  - [www.duolingo.com](http://www.duolingo.com)

## Substance Use & Addiction

To help people who are misusing substances, and their families find addiction treatment and recovery services, mental health counseling, children and family support, and education and prevention resources.

- Al-Anon/Alcoholics Anonymous
  - [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)
- National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Hotline (800)662-4357
- Meth Tip Hotline (877)616-4677
- Community Healing Center (269)556-1525
  - [www.communityhealingcenter.org](http://www.communityhealingcenter.org)
- National Database for individuals seeking treatment
  - [www.Findtreatment.gov](http://www.Findtreatment.gov)

## Berrien County

- Berrien County Health Department (269)926-7121
  - 2149 East Napier Ave, Benton Harbor
- Carol's Hope (269)556-1526
  - 4030 M-139 Ste 108, St. Joseph
- Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center (269)815-5500
  - 6418 Drans Hill Rd, Berrien Center
- Harbortown Treatment Center (269)815-0015
  - 1022 E. Main, Benton Harbor
- Riverwood Center (269)925-0585
  - 1485 M-139, Benton Harbor
  - Niles location by appointment only
- RenewalCare Specialists Detox & Recovery (269)285-5355
  - 1355 Mall Dr. Ste A, Benton Harbor
- Midwest Recovery and Wellness (269)262-1815
  - 24 N. St. Joseph Ave Suite C-2, Niles



## Cass County

- Van Buren/Cass Health Department (800)210-1921  
302 S. Front Street, Dowagiac
- Woodlands (269)445-2451  
1124 Austin St., Cassopolis

## Van Buren County

- Van Buren/Cass Health Department (800)210-1921  
260 South Street, Lawrence
- Celebrate Recovery (269)657-6500  
600 E. Michigan Ave, Paw Paw
- Daily Recovery Zone (269)303-5273  
609 E. Michigan Ave, Paw Paw
- Stepping Stones Association AA & NA Meetings (269)206-2424  
319 Hogans Alley, South Haven

## Surrounding Areas

- Enlightened Recovery Michigan (269)399-6777  
1430 Alamo Avenue, Kalamazoo
- Recovery Institute of Southwest Michigan (269)343-6725  
123 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo
- WMU Behavioral Health and Substance Use Services (269)387-8230  
1000 Oakland Dr., Kalamazoo
- Insights Rehab Counseling and Detoxification Therapy (574)221-6661  
2004 Ironwood Cir #250, South Bend
- Dismas House of Indiana (574)233-8522  
521 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend

## Other Family Services

- Parent Help Line (855)427-2736  
Confidential help for parents and children, crisis intervention, referrals for parenting classes and support groups.
- Logan Autism Learning Center (269)983-5833  
1651 Nickerson Ave, Benton Harbor
- Logan Autism Learning Center (574)289-4831  
2505 E. Jefferson Blvd, South Bend

# Positive Parent-Child Relationships

Beginning with transitions to parenthood, parents and families develop warm relationships that nurture their child's learning and development.

## Mental Health

- Riverwood Center (Benton Harbor & Niles) (800)336-0341  
www.riverwoodcenter.org
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988
- Community Healing Center – Kalamazoo (269)343-1651  
www.communityhealingcenter.org
- Gryphon Place (269)381-1510
- All Three Counties – Anonymous Crisis Hotline Text “Hand” to 741-741
- Michigan Mental Health Services (269)224-2773  
Virtual appointments to any MI resident

## Berrien County

- Freedom Counseling Center (269)982-7200  
www.freedomcounselingusa.com
- Riverwood Mental Health (800)336-0341  
www.riverwoodcenter.org
- Centered on Wellness (269)926-6199  
www.centeredonwellness.info
- Shepard House (269)445-0999  
www.shepardhousecounseling.com
- Haelan Counseling Center (269)683-8972  
109 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Niles
- Hope Center (269)657-5574

## Cass County

- Woodlands Behavioral Health Care Center (269)445-2451
- Shepard House (269)445-0999

## Van Buren County

- Community Mental Health (800)922-1418 OR (269)657-5574
- Hope Center (269)621-6261
- Associated Therapy (269)657-2880
- Maple view Consultation Center (269)657-6025

## Resources specializing in mental health for men

- The Man Kind Project: [mkpusa.org/mens-group/](http://mkpusa.org/mens-group/)
- Visible Man: [visibleman.org](http://visibleman.org)
- Black Men Heal: [blackmenheal.org](http://blackmenheal.org)

## Fatherhood Engagement

- Present Pillars  
204 W. Main St, Benton Harbor
- Website and Apps  
24/7 Dad to go app  
[www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org)  
[www.fatherhood.gov](http://www.fatherhood.gov)

(269)363-4000

## Paternity and Custodial Rights

Flowers Early Learning will **always** follow whatever the most recent order from the court states. Flowers Early Learning will **NEVER** side with one parent over another in the case of a custody battle.

- In the case of Divorced Parents – When a child was conceived or born during the course of the marriage, there will be a section in the divorce paperwork from the court outlining physical and legal custody that determines the custodial parent(s) right(s).
  - Flowers Early Learning will follow the court paperwork (or most recent amended order) when determining who can pick the child up, who to contact in emergencies, who may add/remove people from the Child Information Card, Who can gain access to academic/attendance information and who can volunteer in the classroom.
- In the case of Parents who were never married - In the state of Michigan, the father does not have any innate rights to the child, if the parents were not married at the time of birth or conception. The father's name on the birth certificate does not grant him any physical or legal custody of the child. In Michigan, for the father (if the parents were not married at the time of birth or conception) to gain any rights or responsibilities of the child, is to file for an affidavit of parentage. The affidavit of parentage does not provide physical custody of the child, it only provides legal custody. Legal Custody is needed to go to the court to start a custody order to gain physical custody of the child.

## Paternity

- Family and Child Services, Child Welfare  
1608 Lake Street, Kalamazoo
- Van Buren County Friend of the Court – 24/7 Dad
- Michigan Child Support  
[Michigan.Gov/Childsupport](http://Michigan.Gov/Childsupport)
- Michigan Custodial Rights  
[www.michigan.gov/dadvantage](http://www.michigan.gov/dadvantage)
- Paternity and Custody Websites  
[www.fcsource.org](http://www.fcsource.org)

(269)344-0202

(269)657-7734

(866)540-0008

## Kinship Care

- Kinship Care Websites  
[Kinship.msu.edu](http://Kinship.msu.edu)  
[Childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship](http://Childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship)

# Families as Lifelong Educators

Parents and families observe, guide, promote, and participate in the everyday learning of their children at home, school, and in their communities.

## Family

- Ferry Street School Community Resource Center - Niles (269)687-9860  
Assists residents in getting support services: GED Preparation, Job Training
- Family Planning – Family Planning Education and Resources (269)684-6200  
[www.Lifeplan.org](http://www.Lifeplan.org)

## Early Education

- Michigan Migrant Head Start (Talamon) (800)782-7831
- Child Care Resources (269)349-3296

## Intermediate School Districts

Evaluation and services for children with delays in development, Gifted and Talented Program, vocational/educational programs, Single-Parent Program including child care, hearing and speech therapy, transportation, and job training.

- Berrien RESA (269)471-7725  
711 St. Joseph Ave, Berrien Springs
  - Early On – Parents as Teachers
  - PAT Caregiver Educator Program
  - PAT Playgroups, Great Start
- Southwest Heritage ISD (269)445-3891  
61682 Dailey Road, Cassopolis
  - Early On
  - Great Start
- Van Buren ISD (269)674-8091  
490 S. Paw Paw, Lawrence
  - Project Find
  - Early On
  - Great Start

# Families as Learners

Parents and Families advance their own learning interests through education, training, and other experiences that support their parenting, careers, and life goals.

## Adult Education – GED & Diploma completion

### Berrien County

- Michigan Works Adult Education (269)927-1064 xt 11122  
499 W Main St, Benton Harbor
- Cedar Lane Alternative High School (269)684-9554  
1 Tyler St., Niles
- Niles Adult & Community Education (269)684-4480  
620 W. Main, Niles
- LMC –Educational Opportunities Center (269)927-8869
- Berrien Springs Public Library (ESL) (269)473-0501  
Discovery Academy 1 Sylvester Ave, Berrien Springs

### Cass County

- Pathfinders Adult Education (269)782-4471  
501 N Paul St., Dowagiac
- Cassopolis Adult Alternative Education (269)445-0536  
22721 Diamond Cove St Door 35, Cassopolis

### Van Buren County

- Bangor Community and Adult Education (269)427-6861  
799 W. Arlington, Bangor
- Hartford Alternative Education for Teens & Adults (269)621-7143  
115 School Street, Hartford
- Paw Paw Community Education (269)415-5700  
555 Cedar St, Paw Paw
- Van Buren ISD & Technology Center (269)539-5256  
250 South Street, Lawrence

## Colleges/Universities

- Andrews University www.andrews.edu  
Berrien Springs
- Glen Oaks Community College www.glenoaks.edu  
Centerville
- Kalamazoo College www.kzoo.edu  
Kalamazoo
- Kalamazoo Valley Community College www.kvcc.edu  
Kalamazoo

- Lake Michigan College  
Benton Harbor, Niles, South Haven
- Southwestern Michigan College  
Dowagiac
- Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, Benton Harbor

[www.lakemichigancollege.edu](http://www.lakemichigancollege.edu)

[www.swmich.edu](http://www.swmich.edu)

[www.wmich.edu](http://www.wmich.edu)

## E.S.L. Classes

### Berrien County

- Berrien Springs Public Schools Discovery Academy  
Adult ESL. 242 Sylvester Ave, Berrien Springs  
[Homeoftheshamrocks.org/adult-education-esl.html](http://Homeoftheshamrocks.org/adult-education-esl.html)

(269)473-0501

### Kalamazoo

- Kalamazoo Public Schools Community Education Center  
714 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo

(269)337-0422

### Van Buren

- Van Buren ISD Bangor Community Education  
12 N. Walnut St, Bangor
- Van Buren ISD Covert

(269)539-5432

(269)539-5432

# Family Engagement in Transitions

Parents and families support and advocate for their child's learning and development as they transition to new learning environments, including Infant/Toddler to PreK; Flowers Early Learning to other early learning environments; and Flowers Early Learning to kindergarten through elementary school.

## Local Kindergarten Options

### Great Schools:

Learn more about public and private PK-12 schools in Michigan, including their student demographics, academics, parent reviews, and information about specific cities and districts

- [www.greatschools.org/michigan/](http://www.greatschools.org/michigan/)

### Home School Information:

Learn more about resources and requirements for home schooling options.

- [Michigan.gov/en/mde/services/flexible-learning/options/nonpub-home](http://Michigan.gov/en/mde/services/flexible-learning/options/nonpub-home)

## Berrien

- Benton Harbor
  - Riverside, Hagar Township
  - Benton Harbor Area Schools
    - Discovery Enrichment Center
    - Fair Plain East Elementary
    - Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary
  - Charter Schools
    - Benton Harbor Charter Academy
    - Countryside Academy
  - Private/Faith-Based
    - Brookview Montessorri
    - River of Life Christian School
    - Mildred C. Wells Academy
- Berrien Springs
  - Berrien Springs Public Schools
    - Mars Elementary School
  - Private/Faith-Based
    - Trinity Lutheran
    - Ruth Mudoch
    - Village Adventist
    - Blossomland Learning Center
- Bridgman
  - Bridgman Public Schools
    - Bridgman Elementary School



- Buchanan
  - Buchanan Public Schools
    - Ottawa Elementary School
- Coloma
  - Coloma Public Schools
    - Coloma Elementary School
- Eau Claire
  - Eau Claire Public Schools
    - Lybrook Elementary School
  - Private/Faith-Based
    - Eau Claire Adventist
- New Buffalo
  - New Buffalo Public Schools
    - New Buffalo Elementary
- Niles
  - Brandywine Community Schools
    - Merritt Elementary School
  - Niles Community Schools
    - Ballard Elementary School
    - Eastside Connections School
    - Howard-Ellis Elementary School
  - Private/Faith-Based
    - St. Mary's School
    - Niles Adventist
- Three Oaks
  - River Valley Elementary
- Sodus
  - River School
- St. Joseph
  - St. Joseph Public Schools
    - Brown Elementary
    - E.P. Clarke Elementary
    - Lincoln Elementary
  - Private/Faith-Based
    - Our Lady of the Lake
    - Grace Lutheran School
    - Michigan Lutheran School
    - Trinity Lutheran
    - Montessorri Children's School

- Stevensville/Lakeshore
  - Lakeshore Schools
    - Stewart Elementary School
    - Roosevelt Elementary School
    - Hollywood Elementary
  - Private/Faith-Based
    - Christ Lutheran School
    - St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran School
- Watervliet
  - Watervliet Schools
    - South Elementary
  - Private/Faith-Based
    - Grace Christian School

## Cass

- Cassopolis
  - Cassopolis Public Schools
    - Sam Adams Elementary
- Dowagiac
  - Dowagiac Union Schools
    - Justus Gage Elementary
    - Kincheloe Elementary
    - Patrick Hamilton Elementary
- Edwardsburg
  - Edwardsburg Public Schools
    - Edwardsburg Primary
- Marcellus
  - Marcellus Public Schools
    - Marcellus Elementary
  - Private/Faith-Based
    - Howardsville Christian
- White Pigeon
  - White Pigeon Schools
    - Central Elementary

## Van Buren

- Bangor
  - Bangor Public Schools
    - South Walnut Elementary

- Bloomingdale
  - Bloomingdale Public Schools
    - Bloomingdale Elementary
    - Pullman Elementary
- Decatur
  - Decatur Public Schools
    - Davis Elementary
- Gobles
  - Gobles Public Schools
    - Gobles Elementary
- Hartford
  - Hartford Public Schools
    - Redwood Elementary
- Lawrence
  - Lawrence Public Schools
    - Lawrence Elementary
- Lawton
  - Lawton Community Schools
    - Lawton Elementary
- Mattawan
  - Mattawan Consolidated Schools
    - Mattawan Early Elementary
- Paw Paw
  - Paw Paw Public Schools
    - Paw Paw Early Elementary
  - Private/Faith-Based
    - Saint Mary Catholic
    - Trinity Lutheran
- South Haven
  - South Haven Public Schools
    - Lincoln Elementary
    - Maple Grove Elementary
  - Private/Faith-Based
    - Saint Basil
    - St. Paul Lutheran

## Parent Will – Custody of Child(ren)

### Over a Minor Child

In the unfortunate circumstance that a single parent passes unexpectedly, the primary caregiver must have a Will written determining who is granted custody of their child(ren). The absence of such Will could result in the child(ren) being placed in CPS and/or Foster Care.

- [www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com)
- [www.legalzoom.com](http://www.legalzoom.com)
- [www.michiganlegalhelp.org](http://www.michiganlegalhelp.org)

## Power of Attorney

### Over a Minor Child

There may be situations that require another person to act as parental authority for your child. This person can perform a range of functions which can include parental/guardian duties related to basic care, school, consenting to medical treatment, etc. Should this type of situation occur a written document should be obtained, like the sample below, and if possible be Notarized, by a Notary Public. Please note that the time period cannot exceed six months.

#### Parental Authority Release

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give my permission  
 (Current legal parent or guardian)  
 to \_\_\_\_\_, to act as a parental authority for my  
 (Person to who Authority is given)  
 child, \_\_\_\_\_, in my absence.  
 (Legal name of child)

This authorization is valid from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Time Period Begin Date) (Time Period End Date)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Current legal parent or guardian)

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Today's date)

# Family Connection to Peers and Community

Parents and families form connections with peers and mentors in formal or informal social networks that are supportive, educational, and enhance social well-being and community life.

- American Diabetic Association (800)342-2383
- Autism Learning Center – St. Joseph (269)983-5833
- Autism Society of Michigan (800)223-6722
- Berrien County Hearing Impaired Program (269)471-7724
- Brain Injury Association (800)444-6443
- CDC Info (800)232-4636
- CHADD (Children & Adults with ADD) (800)233-4050
- Council on Aging – Cassopolis (800)323-0390
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (855)372-5297
- Easter Seals Michigan (800)292-2729
- First Candle (203)966-1300  
[www.firstcandle.org](http://www.firstcandle.org)
- Multiple Sclerosis Foundation (800)441-7055
- National Dollar General Literacy Foundation (877)389-6874
- National Down Syndrome Society (800)221-4602
- National Information Center for Children & Youth with Disabilities (800)695-0285
- National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) (800)999-6673
- National Reye's Syndrome (800)233-7393
- Native American Affairs and Indian Outreach Services (269)621-2802
- Neighborhood Watch (616)730-1267
- Senior Services – St. Joseph (800)654-2810
- United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan (800)828-2714
- Veteran's Services (269)654-7376

## Great Start Parent Coalitions

Parent Coalitions are available in every county in Michigan as a way for parents to become advocates for their children's education. They are open to all parents in each county, and work to help parents become involved in their community by making each county a great place for families to live. Connect with them on Facebook or their websites to learn about their family events and coalition meetings. Free to join and get your voice heard.

- Berrien County Parent Coalition (269)471-7725  
 Berrien County Great Start Collaborative
- Cass County Parent Coalition (269)635-0236  
[www.greatstartcass.org](http://www.greatstartcass.org) or on Facebook – Cass County Great Start Parent Coalition
- Van Buren Parent Coalition (269)389-9880  
[www.greatstart-vanburen.org](http://www.greatstart-vanburen.org) or on Facebook – Van Buren Great Start Parent Coalition

## Boys & Girls Club

Club programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence.

- Benton Harbor (269)926-8766

## H.O.P.E Parent Resource Center

- South Haven (269)872-3172

## Libraries

### Berrien County

- Benton Harbor Public Library (269)926-6139  
213 E. Wall
- Berrien Springs Community Library (269)471-7074  
215 West Union Street
- Bridgman Public Library (269)465-3663  
4460 Lake St
- Buchanan District Library (269)695-3681  
128 E Front St
- Coloma Public Library (269)468-3431  
151 W Center St
- Eau Claire District Library (269)461-6241  
6528 E Main St
- Galien Township Public Library (269)545-8281  
302 N Cleveland Ave
- Lake Michigan College (269)927-8605  
William Hessel Library  
2755 E Napier Ave Room L-100 Benton Harbor
- Lincoln Township Public Library (269)429-9575  
2099 West John Beers Rd, Stevensville
- Maud Preston Palenske Memorial (269)983-7167  
500 Market St - St. Joseph
- New Buffalo Township (269)469-2933  
33 Thompson St
- Niles District Library (269)683-0075  
620 E Main - Niles
- Niles Area SMC Library (800)456-8675 ext. 3001  
33890 US Hwy 12 – Niles
- Sodus Township Library (269)925-0903  
3776 Naomi Rd – Sodus
- Three Oaks Township Public (269)756-5621  
3 North Elm St - Three Oaks
- Watervliet District Library (269)463-6382  
333 N Main St – Watervliet

## Cass County

- Cass District Library (866)808-7323  
319 M 62 – Cassopolis
- Dowagiac District Library (269)782-3826  
211 Commercial St – Dowagiac
- Edwardsburg Branch Library (269)663-5875  
26745 Church St
- Howard Branch Library (269)847-9214  
2341 Yankee – Niles
- Marcellus Township Wood Mem. (269)646-9654  
205 Main St - Marcellus
- Mason-Union Branch Library (269)357-7821  
17049 US 12 East – Edwardsburg
- Southwestern Michigan College (269)782-1339/(800)456-8675 ext. 1339  
Fred L Mathews Library  
58900 Cherry Grove Rd, Dowagiac

## Van Buren County

- Antwerp Sunshine Branch Library (269)668-2534  
24823 Front St, Mattawan
- Bangor Branch Library (269)427-8810  
420 Division St
- Bloomingdale Branch Library (269)521-7601  
109 E Kalamazoo Ave
- Covert Branch Library (269)764-1298  
33805 M-140 Highway
- Gobles Branch Library (269)628-4537  
105 E Main
- Hartford Public Library (269)588-5103  
15 Church St
- Lawrence Branch Library (269)674-3200  
212 N Paw Paw St
- Lawton Public Library (269)624-5481  
125 S Main
- Paw Paw District Library (269)657-3800  
609 W Michigan Ave
- South Haven Memorial Library (269)637-2403  
314 Broadway St
- Van Buren District Library (269)423-4771  
200 N. Phelps St, Decatur



## Transportation

### Berrien County

- Dial-a-Ride
  - Benton Harbor (269)927-4461
  - Niles (269)684-5150
- Berrien Bus/Buchanan Dial-a-Ride (269)471-1100
- Medic 1
  - Emergencies (214)703-8445
  - Non-Emergencies (269)925-2144
- Berrien County DHHS Medical Transportation (888)898-7969

### Cass County

- Cass County Public Transit (269)445-2455
- Dial-a-Ride – Dowagiac (269)782-3300
- Cass County DHHS Medical Transportation (269)445-8110

### Van Buren County

- Van Buren Transit (269)427-7921
- Van Buren DHHS Medical Transportation (734)699-8945

## Families as Advocates and Leaders

Families participate in leadership development, decision-making, program policy development, or community and state organizing activities to improve children’s development and learning experiences.

- ARC of Michigan (Advocacy for Developmentally Disabled) (800)292-7851
- Michigan Alliance for Families (800)552-4821  
[www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org)
- Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. (517)372-4016  
 Advocated for civil and legal rights of people with disabilities
- Michigan office of Special Education Information Line (888)320-8384  
 Information on Special Education Rights
- Disability Network of Southwest Michigan  
[www.dnswm.org](http://www.dnswm.org)

### Flowers Early Learning Policy Council and Parent Meetings

At Flowers Early Learning, parents are essential to our existence. Join us at our Parent Meetings. Meetings are held at each center to give a voice to parents in the program about ideas or suggestions to make our program better. A member of the parent meeting is voted onto Policy Council. Your Policy Council representative is part of the governance of our program. The Policy Council members bring your ideas to monthly meetings where program plans are discussed and approved or disapproved. Contact your Family Advocate, Home Visitor or your child’s Teacher to learn more.

### Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO) / Parent Teacher Associations (PTA)

Most school districts (private or public) have a PTO/PTA, or similar advocacy group that helps make decisions and raise funds for the local schools. To find the PTO/PTA associated with the school your child attends or plans to attend, check out each school’s individual website and look for the PTO/PTA link.

### Registering to Vote

Registering to vote in Michigan is easy and voting is one of the best ways to advocate for your child’s future success. Go to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) to learn more.

### Legal Aid

- West Michigan Legal Services
  - Client Hotline (800)819-0773
  - Legal Helpline (888)418-1311
- Farmworker Legal Services (269)492-7190
- Justice for Our Neighbors (Kalamazoo Office) (269)743-2501
- Diocese of Kalamazoo – Immigration Assistance Program (269)385-1019  
[Diokzoo.org/immigration-assistance-program](http://Diokzoo.org/immigration-assistance-program)
- Hispanic American Council Inc (269)385-6279

