



First Annual
DETROIT
Day of the
YOUNG
CHILD

APRIL 27, 2017

#HopeBuilds

Use your voice to
Shape OUR Future

Community TOOLKIT

Sharing what we know. Doing it together.

 Hope starts **HERE**
DETROIT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIP

WHAT IS THE Detroit Day of the YOUNG CHILD?

A critical opportunity to use your voice to shape the future for Detroit's children.

The Day of the Young Child is a one-day action focused on Detroit's children. On April 27, 2017, across the city, Detroiters will come together in conversation to discuss what early childhood could and should look like here.

These 60-minute "listening sessions" will create space to envision a brighter future for our kids, and what we need to do to get there.

The Day of the Young Child is organized by *Hope Starts Here: Detroit's Early Childhood Partnership*. The ideas shared during the listening sessions will help inform a vision and action plan for early childhood in Detroit.

THANK YOU

for being part of this historic moment and
for putting Detroit kids first!

WHAT'S IN this toolkit

Everything you need to host a successful Day of the Young Child listening session.

- ✓ Easy steps to host a listening session.....pg 8
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- ✓ Conversation prompts.....pg 11
- ✓ Opportunities to get kids involved.....pg 13
- ✓ Ways to stay engaged after your listening session is over..... pg 17

But before we jump in...

Let's make sure we're on the same page when we're talking about "early childhood" and what's going on right now in Detroit.



WHAT IS AN "early childhood system"



Definition:

When we talk about "early childhood systems" we mean the activities and/or experiences that affect the development of children from conception through eight years old.

You heard right! The *Hope Starts Here* process believes that pregnancy is part of that. It's education *and* health *and* well-being.

Why? The health of a pregnant mom is a major factor in positive child health and development. Moms-to-be need to eat healthy food and have the prenatal care of a doctor during pregnancy for baby's brains to develop before and after birth. The brain grows so fast that 80% of the brain is developed by a child's third birthday!

When a baby is developing in the womb and until the first birthday is the most important time for the brain to grow.

TIP: When you're hosting your listening session, make sure your participants know that "early childhood" starts before birth!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN DETROIT?

We're in trouble!

DETROIT IS RANKED NEAR THE BOTTOM IN CHILD WELL-BEING:

- Our city has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the **country** (13 out of every 1,000 live births).
- We have a child care supply shortage. **Nearly 30,000** eligible young children in our city have no early learning or care options!



FEWER THAN HALF of Detroit's eligible 3 and 4 year olds are in early learning environments.

- Only **14% of Detroit's children** are reading at grade level.
- **Twenty-six schools** are on the brink of closure in Detroit, which will create education deserts in some areas of the city.

Source: Michigan League for Public Policy, Kids Count in Michigan Data Book, 2016; "Readiness in Detroit" – Excellent Schools Detroit, 2016; "The System We Need" – IFF

Luckily, there's hope

DID YOU KNOW?

Close to **300 organizations** already exist to support early childhood in Detroit. They work on a variety of issues:

Kids' mental & physical health

Supporting families & caregivers

Early childhood funding & policy

Early learning & child development

Developing a strong early childhood workforce

Creating safe, healthy communities

That means there's **positive momentum** to build on.

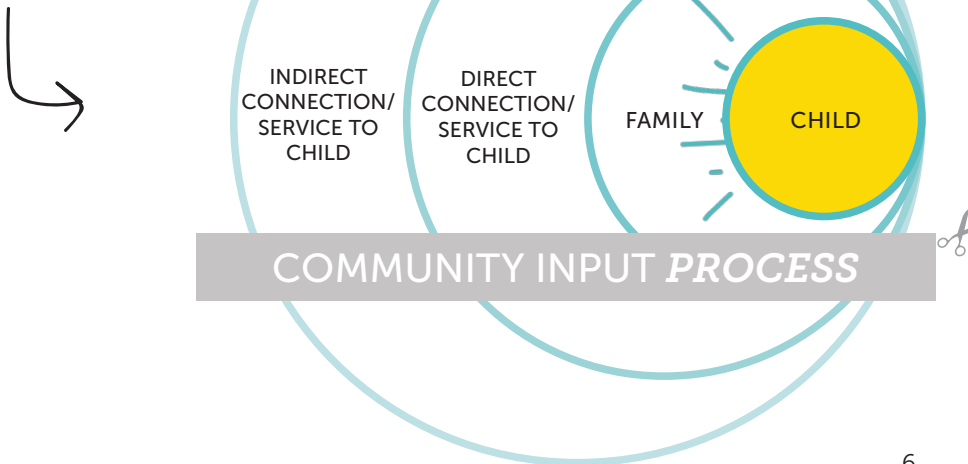
There are also huge opportunities for **growth**.

That's where **Hope starts HERE** comes in.
DETROIT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIP



We're getting together everything that's **already** out there and getting everyone working on the same page, so we can figure out how to have a better high-quality support system for kids and families.

We've designed a kid-focused process to hear from Detroiters across the city about what we need to do to better support our children.



WHO IS PART OF THIS PROCESS? **YOU!**

And that's why we're here today.

- parents

- civic & business leaders

- child education & health experts

- & many others

The **Hope Starts Here** process is about making sure everyone's voice and expertise is part of the vision and action plan.

Detroit Day of the **YOUNG CHILD**

is one way for us to hear from people across the city.

The ideas and solutions shared during your listening session will help inform the Hope Starts Here vision and action plan.

How to host a

listening session

▼ BEFORE YOUR LISTENING SESSION

- 1 Make sure you register as a host, if you haven't already. You can register online at hopestartsheredetroit.org/day-of-the-young-child
- 2 Choose a listening session time and location.
- 3 Invite your attendees. If you're going to have more than 12, you'll want to secure another person to help you host because you'll want to divide the big group into smaller groups for the discussion portion, and you'll want a host in each smaller discussion.
- 4 Remind your attendees about the listening session several days in advance.
- 5 Make sure you have a sign-in sheet as well as photo release forms, thoughts pages and feedback surveys for each participant. You can download those documents at hopestartsheredetroit.org/day-of-the-young-child. If you need assistance obtaining or printing the documents, call 313.242.7385.

▼ ON THE DAY OF YOUR LISTENING SESSION

- 1 Your group can sit in a circle, at a table, with chairs, on the couch, on the floor, whatever works best for your space and where people are comfortable.
- 2 Have everyone sign in, sign the photo release and take a thoughts page.

How to host a

listening session

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▼ DURING YOUR LISTENING SESSION

- ↑ **Spend 5 minutes welcoming the group.** Identify the purpose of the conversation: to discuss challenges facing Detroit children and think about ways to make the city a better place for them to grow and learn. Encourage them to take pictures throughout the meeting to post on Facebook, Instagram or other social media, and use the #HopeBuilds hashtag and share on fb.me/HopeStartsHereDetroit
- ↻ **Spend 10 minutes on introductions** and ask everyone to share what spoke to their heart to be there.
- 🕒 **Use the data sheet included in your host packet to share information** about the existing issues facing Detroit's children and why developing an early childhood plan in Detroit matters.
(If your group is larger than 12 people, at this point, divide into groups of 6-8 people)
- 🕒 **Spend 30 minutes discussing two questions:** As we think about the issues facing Detroit's children and the Hope Starts Here purpose, what can we build together to help children grow up happy and healthy in Detroit...1) if we have unlimited resources? 2) if we have \$100 and one week to get it done?

Encourage everyone to use their thoughts page to capture the ideas that speak to them in whatever way they see fit.

- ↻ **Pass out the feedback surveys and take a few minutes to complete the feedback survey.**
- ↻ **Thank everyone for being there** and encourage them to stay connected to the work on Facebook by following Hope Starts Here Detroit.

How to host a

listening session

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▼ AFTER YOUR LISTENING SESSION

- 1 Collect the thought pages and feedback surveys from each person.
- 2 Place the sign-in sheet, thought pages and feedback surveys in the self-addressed, stamped white envelope.
- 3 Return your results. You can either scan and email your materials to info@hopestartsheredetroit.org, or arrange for a Hope Starts Here representative to pick them up by contacting Camarrah at camarrah@earlyworkslc.com.

A FEW PRACTICAL REMINDERS:

- Make sure you have all of your materials printed out and ready to go in advance of your listening session.
- Don't forget to put out your sign-in sheet!
- Don't forget to collect participants' photo release forms, thought pages and feedback surveys.
- If you need additional discussion prompts, use the conversation starters included in this toolkit.
- Share your photos, videos and ideas on social media using the hashtag #HopeBuilds
- Call us at 313.242.7385 or email us at info@hopestartsheredetroit.org if you have any questions.

Facilitation Tips

In your role as a listening session host, you want to create a safe, fun and comfortable environment where people can think, dream and build. Here are some tips to help you facilitate a great conversation:

- Be aware of your own emotions, body language, and reactions. Your behavior will determine the group's behavior. If you're positive and engaging, others will feel positive and engaged. Even if you disagree with someone, appreciate their contribution to the conversation.
- Encourage everyone to participate and speak openly.
- Keep the conversation focused on building solutions for children and families in Detroit.
- Within that broader topic, let the group decide on the specific discussion topic(s) based on their experience and willingness.
- Remember that whatever happens during the conversation is what is supposed to happen. If the conversation changes direction, that is okay!
- But if the group gets completely off topic and is no longer discussing solutions for children and families in Detroit, redirect the conversation. Try saying, "I think we are off the topic." Then restate the purpose of the session, summarize some of the key points already made, and ask a question to redirect the discussion.

(More) Facilitation Tips

- Encourage your group to build on each other's ideas and not get bogged down with analyzing them too much.
- Keep the conversation flowing by asking follow up questions like, "That is very interesting. Would you tell me more about your idea?" Or "What can we do about that?" Or "What would have made that experience better?" Or "How can we make that better for others in the future?"
- Encourage everyone to speak one at a time so everyone is heard. Encourage participants to self-manage when speaking to give space and time for each other to share.
- If someone is monopolizing the conversations, try saying something like, "I understand what you are saying. I'd love to hear how other people feel about that topic or idea."
- If a conflict arises during the conversation, resolve it by reminding everyone of the conversation's purpose. Try using phrases like, "I understand it's important for you to..." and "All ideas are important and can be included."
- Embrace silence to allow people time to process questions, thoughts or comments. Sometimes silence creates amazing ideas!
- Remind people to write down any ideas they were not able to share during the discussion on their thoughts pages. Let them know those ideas will still be included in the report back.

EXTRA CONVERSATION STARTERS

You can use these prompts to help facilitate your listening session, or in your own thinking and conversations about early childhood in Detroit.



LET'S TALK ABOUT WELL-BEING.

What can we do to make it easier for parents and caregivers to get services that would help their families? What can we do together to help improve health outcomes for children and families?

LET'S TALK ABOUT FACILITIES.

What can we do to improve our buildings to be safe places where children grow and learn? What can we do to help our neighborhoods be safe, healthy places for our children to grow and learn?

EXTRA CONVERSATION STARTERS

LET'S TALK ABOUT QUALITY.

What type of early childhood program or services could we create to meet the needs of our families? (Think about hours, locations, resources, etc.)

LET'S TALK ABOUT FUNDING.

How can we make child care affordable for families so every child in Detroit can attend a quality program?

LET'S TALK ABOUT TALENT.

What trainings can we create so adults know how young children develop and how to educate them?
What can we do to help parents and caregivers increase coping, resiliency and stress management skills so they can support our children?

Kids' Corner

Children are at the center of Hope Starts Here, and they're also invaluable resources as we identify the challenges they're facing and seek to create solutions.

Children of all ages are invited to share their ideas during Detroit's Day of the Young Child.

How can we engage kids?

- 1 Schools, child care centers and other kid-focused activities can lead listening sessions with children.
- 2 Parents can lead listening sessions with their children at home.
- 3 Kids can use the activity pages included in this toolkit to communicate their ideas, which can be shared on social media using the hashtag #HopeBuilds or submitted directly to Hope Starts Here by emailing a photo or copy to info@hopestartsheredetroit.org.

Recommended for children up to age 5

#HopeBuilds



Recommended for ages K-12

WHAT DOES **Hope** LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

Draw/write your vision of hope, then share a photo of it using the hashtag #HopeBuilds

Growing up in Detroit, what are your hopes and dreams for our city?

What can you do now? **STAY INVOLVED!**

Now that you're part of Hope Starts Here, you'll want to know how everything turns out!

Here are two things you can do right now:

SIGN UP for our *Following Hope* emails. These keep our followers updated about the Hope Starts Here plan and vision making process. Our June newsletter will be all about how the First Annual Day of the Young Child went!

FOLLOW US on Facebook @HopeStartsHereDetroit. That's where we'll share our most timely updates and additional opportunities for sharing your input.

Thank you for being part
of this effort.

As Magic Johnson said, "All kids need is a little help, a little **hope**, and someone who believes in them."

