

Families First...everything else is second!

VISION: Every child in Elkhart County will enter school ready to succeed.

Families First is an Elkhart County community collaboration based on the ideals that:

1. Families are the basic building blocks of a community.
2. The early years are the most important period of a child's development.
3. The entire community has a stake in the success of the early childhood experience.

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Services: Child care is available in our parenting classes and during part of the Kindergarten Readiness Workshops. Parenting classes and Kindergarten workshops are available in Spanish. A meal, or light snacks, is available during parenting classes. Transportation is not offered for any Families First services.

Education	Advocacy	Support	Other
<p>COUNT DOWN TO KINDERGARTEN Throughout Elkhart County parents and children come together for fun, hands-on experiences with activities to prepare children for school. Parents of 3, 4, and 5 years olds are encouraged to attend. Each family receives a readiness kit with material representing the various domains of early learning, the 1 ½ hour workshop shows parents ways to use the material to teach and/or reinforce early learning skills through play.</p> <p>The workshops are offered through all seven public schools, preschools/daycares and in private homes. Educational materials are also available on-line.</p> <p>Parenting Classes and workshops: Families First can help facilitate parenting classes and workshops at your location.</p>	<p>Advocacy services are not available at this time.</p>	<p>WELCOME BABY Every newborn baby in the county receives, upon leaving the hospital, a “Welcome Baby” bag, filled with useful information for parents and a board book for baby. The program is designed to celebrate the birth of every newborn in Elkhart County and to provide new parents with emotional support, a network of community based resources, basic child health, developmental, safety, and nutrition information.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY COLLABORATION: Families First strives to build partnerships across the community to equip and train individuals to deliver quality parenting curriculum and workshop material through out Elkhart County.</p> <p>TRAIN THE TRAINERS Through training other professionals, Families First engages existing networks, and creates new avenues where parents can connect, have fun and enjoy learning activities with other parents.</p>