



Early Childhood
Education
61682 Dailey Road
Cassopolis, MI 49031-9648 269-445-
6283
Learning For All...
Whatever It Takes

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Position: LEAD TEACHER

Position: GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM (GSRP) & STRONG BEGINNINGS PROGRAM

Mission: To educate, support and connect the children, families and communities of Cass County

Summary: Cultivate supportive, empowering relationships with children and families in a high quality program to help young children learn and grow to their fullest potential

Reports to: Heritage Southwest ISD Director of Early Childhood Education

Education: Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development; OR a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a ZA or ZS endorsement. Demonstrated commitment toward continuing education

Preferred: Prior training and experience in leading high quality, developmentally appropriate early childhood settings for children who are three or four years old. HighScope training is a plus.

Compensation: Competitive salary and full benefit package based on education and experience

This salaried position is for **175 staff days/120 child days**. There may be additional paid days required for professional development.

Evaluation: Performance will be evaluated by the Director of Early Childhood Education.

Application: Applications will be reviewed upon arrival, and should be submitted as soon as possible. Please use the Heritage Southwest ISD Applitrack Frontline system online at:
<https://www.applitrack.com/lewiscass/onlineapp/default.aspx>

Application

Deadline: April 30, 2023

Questions? Please contact Chris Whitmire, Director of Early Childhood Education at
christine.whitmire@hsisd.org

*We exist to promote the growth and wellbeing of the children of Cass County
by meeting the unique needs of our local school districts, families, and community.*

Program Description:

Heritage Southwest ISD is actively recruiting highly qualified and motivated staff for expansion of programs involving children in Cass County who are three- and four-years-old by September 1.

Michigan is offering the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for four-year-old children and Strong Beginnings pilot preschool program for three-year-old children with factors that may place them at risk for low educational attainment, such as: low income, developmental delays, trauma, foster care, and homelessness. These programs are based on research that shows similar children, who attend a high-quality preschool have significant positive developmental outcomes when compared to their peers who attended no high-quality program. Both GSRP and Strong Beginnings feature a unique family engagement component that includes a Family Liaison as part of the team.

Essential Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:

- Demonstrated leadership and knowledge of high quality, early childhood educational programs
- Ability to develop effective, nurturing relationships with children, staff and the school community
- Demonstrated knowledge of: child development, early childhood education and special education
- Demonstrated knowledge of: family systems, trauma and poverty issues
- Understanding of and ability to lead developmentally appropriate practice in the classroom
- Well-developed observation, screening, and assessment techniques
- Demonstrated leadership in the classroom communicating both orally and in writing
- Demonstrated professionalism and strong, ethical decision-making while leading others
- Demonstrated organizational, technological and data-keeping abilities
- Ability to create nurturing classroom environments that promote play and inquiry as the “third teacher” both inside and outside the classroom
- History of continuous learning and development as a professional educator
- Ability to develop children’s emerging interests and document the learning in the classroom through visual representation with project based learning
- Knowledge of and experience with brain-based systems that build children’s skills through relationships as a classroom family and community of learners, reducing challenging behaviors
- Demonstrated technical skills with use of online assessment platforms and effective engagement of families through a variety of media
- Exemplary record of dependable and responsible leadership in the classroom
- Ability to teach and support Associate Staff in their own emerging practices
- Ability to read and comprehend simple instructions, short correspondence, and memos

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While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to stand, walk, sit on the floor and talk. The employee must regularly lift up to 40 lbs. Regular, in-person attendance is an essential job function.