



THE COALITION CONNECTION

Meet our *NEW* Coordinators!

Coalition Coordinator

I am Jessica Harris and I consider myself to be an energetic individual. With over a decade of experience in human services, I've had a variety of positions -- from direct service and case management to data analytics and program organization -- giving me a uniquely comprehensive and intersectional human-centered approach.

I am interested in opportunities that allow me to draw from my interdisciplinary background to improve equitable wellbeing, build trust, enhance social systems, and elevate human experiences.

To put it briefly, I hope to leave things better than how I found them.

As the GFECC Coordinator I believe in the value of acting locally by focusing on community collaboration, program coordination and effective communication -- because grassroots action is the most effective tool for social change.

I am a mama to two littles, a proud wife of an Airman, and seek joy in the in between.

Family Engagement Coordinator

Hello! My name is Melissa Giard, the Early Childhood Family Engagement Coordinator for the GFECC. I am thrilled to be working with the coalition and I am very motivated to accomplish some big goals! I have a passion for the Great Falls community and how to make our awesome town even better...and it starts with our kids! My main goal is to have a positive impact on children's development...after all; they're the ones who are going to be taking care of US one day.

For several years I worked as a Practice Manager for a local chiropractor while I was earning my Bachelor's degree in Social Psychology. This position allowed me to develop my love for relationship building. From there I took a Case Management position with a local company that provides mental health services to youth. I was then promoted to run their mentoring program, overseeing about 60 individuals to work with at-risk youth in our community.

I developed a strong desire for helping these kids succeed in the most unfortunate circumstances. I watched kids have a stronger resilience than most adults, and that is inspiring! This is why I decided to keep my career moving and focus on community and family development, which will allow me to see my efforts being effective for years to come!

I'm ready to get my hands dirty! Let's get to work Great Falls!

News

Follow us!



Don't miss any upcoming events! Subscribe to the calendars **NOW** on the [GFEC Website!](#)

To Subscribe:

1. Select Icon "Google Calendar" Icon



2. Sign In to continue to Google Calendar



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Wednesday, August 28
1:30pm PCAN Quarterly Steering Meeting
Thursday, September 12
10:30am GFEC Marketing & Communication Committee
12:00pm GFEC Board Meeting
Friday, September 13
12:00pm Raising Readers Committee
Tuesday, September 17
12:00pm Family Engagement Committee
Saturday, September 21
10:00am Yours, Mine, Ours PCAN Baby Shower 2019
Wednesday, October 9
Dr. Beegle - Breaking the Iron Cage of Poverty - Community Presentation
Thursday, October 10
10:30am GFEC Marketing & Communication Committee
12:00pm GFEC Board Meeting
Friday, October 11
12:00pm Raising Readers Committee
Thursday, October 17
Montana West Early Childhood Conference
Friday, October 18
Montana West Early Childhood Conference

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Family Engagement

Making Moments Memorable

By: Melissa Giard

September is **National Family Fun** month! Take this time to enjoy some time together. Get some ice cream, take a walk, let your kids put on a talent show for you, go on a bike ride, color the sidewalks with chalk...the options are endless! Post on social media using **#FamilyFunMonth** to get others to join in!

October is **National Library Card Sign-up** month! This exciting activity is a very rewarding experience for kids! Not only will it teach them responsibility in caring for things, but it encourages them to read and fosters brain development. Let their imagination soar! Use **#LibraryCardSignUpMonth** to encourage others!

November is **National Gratitude** month! Gratitude is more than saying "Thank You", it is about reflection and appreciation. Gratitude allows us to focus on the positive instead of the negative which boosts our mood, decrease stress, and improves our overall health! Post on social media what you have gratitude for using **#NationalGratitudeMonth**.

Parent Tip of the Month!

Have you ever heard of the 5 Love Languages?

There is a simple quiz available online to take which describes the way you or a loved one expresses and understands love.

This even works with kids! Children gain their self-esteem from parent's unconditional love.

Answer the quick questions to gain a better understanding of how to show your love to your child in the best way that they recognize it! The quiz can be found at www.5lovelanguages.com

Also, check out Mom's Guide to the Five Love Languages of Children, a chart to help you put this to work and make it fun!

Mom's Guide to the Five Love Languages of Children

Inspired by *The Five Love Languages of Children* by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell

Touch	Words	Quality Time	Gifts	Service
<p>Describes your child: Receive hugs Kisses High Fives Cuddle Asks to be carried Physical activity: racing, wrestling, tag, climbs in your lap</p>	<p>Describes your child: Likes for others to tell them they did a good job. Favorite words include: Terrific! Good job! You're #1! Awesome kid! You did it!</p>	<p>Describes your child: Loves to do things with you: watch a movie, yard work, go out to eat, run errands, play a game. Tries to get your undivided attention. Wants to sit next to you or have you watch them while they're playing.</p>	<p>Describes your child: Feels good when someone gives them something. Enjoys a special present or surprise. Enjoys: birthday presents, surprise treats, earning a treat, having their favorite food made for them.</p>	<p>Describes your child: Likes it when people do nice things for them: helping with chores, school projects, driving places, making meals and snacks</p>
<p>Mom Tips: Hold hands, Hug often, Bean bag chairs, Tight spaces / swaddle, Family cuddles, Sing action songs, Tickle fun, Read stories together on the couch or your lap</p>	<p>Mom Tips: Write notes on the mirror, Compliment, Speak positively about them, Always say I Love You, Praise them aloud around others, Write a letter to them, Come up with a cheer or song with their name in it, Be specific in your praise</p>	<p>Mom Tips: Run errands I:1 together, Date night/breakfast I:1, Make eye contact, Ask about day, Pay attention to details, Plan special events/trips, Eat together as a family, Read together, Bedtime Routine</p>	<p>Mom Tips: Keep a small stash of inexpensive gifts, Give them a flower or stone you find outside, Leave gifts for them when you're out of town, Shop with them for a special gift, Send them on a gift treasure hunt</p>	<p>Mom Tips: Practice sports together, Work together on a project, Check homework, Pick them up on time, Surprise them by doing a chore for them, teach them how to serve others</p>

The #1 job of parents is to meet their child's need for love. A child with a full love tank = a healthy, emotionally stable child.

Books Resources: *The Five Love Languages of Children* by Chapman and Campbell (2012 edition)

Websites: www.5lovelanguages.com, Assessment: <http://www.5lovelanguages.com/assessments/love/>

Family Engagement



How to Read Aloud to a Child That Won't Sit Still

1. Pick interactive books. Books that actively draw a child in can help keep her engaged during story time.
2. Let them do something with their hands. Give your child crayons, play dough or a puzzle while you read aloud. Keeping her hands busy may make it easier for her to listen to a story.
3. Try different times of day. What time of day would your child best sit for a story? Try bedtime when she wants to stay up longer or first thing in the morning snuggled up together.
4. Give them an overview of the story first. Before reading, look at the cover and illustrations and discuss with your child what the story is about.
5. Don't push too hard. Select shorter books or read when she is in the car seat or highchair. If a story wasn't successful, try again another time.

Where to Play in Great Falls

This month's Park of the Month is **Wadsworth Park!**

4620 Wilkinson Lane

Do some fishing or take a dip in Wadsworth Pond!



Vocabulary

Use these words when you talk with your child this month.

Jostle - to push or bump on purpose

Burst - to break up or explode suddenly

Humongous - huge

Mutter - speech so low it's hard to understand

Sniffing - smelling

