

PROGRAM

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students did their part to collect the toys on the floor and put them in their proper cubical.

The program, in its second year at Williams Elementary School, recently earned a 5-star quality rating from Michigan's Great Start to Quality rating improvement system.

"Making sure we provide children in our care with the best experience possible is not only our job, it's our privilege," Cuson said. "By participating in the Great Start to Quality, we earn recognition for our hard work, and the system also provides ongoing support and training so we can keep improving the quality of care we provide."

Great Start to Quality rates the level of quality of all licensed and registered childcare and preschool programs in Michigan.

Hillsdale Intermediate School District Great



The Williams Elementary School Great Start Readiness Program was recently awarded a 5-star quality rating from Great Start to Quality. ANDY BARRAND PHOTO

Start Supervisor Ginelle Skinner noted that Hillsdale County is fortunate to have several programs that have earned 5-star ratings.

Those programs include Reading Head Start, Litchfield Head Start and GSRP, Pittsford Head Start and GSRP, Camden Head Start and GSRP and Waldron Head Start and GSRP.

The remaining programs in the county are 4-star rated programs; those include Bailey Early

Childhood Center GSRP, Hillsdale Head Start and GSRP, Jonesville Head Start, North Adams GSRP, Reading GSRP and Greenfield Head Start.

The program is not your typical preschool program, by incorporating the students into a school setting it begins to prepare them to take the next step and begin their education as kindergartners.

Students in the GSR program at Williams Elementary School attend

a full day of school, four days a week.

The day is filled with structured activities, centered around learning through discovery, working in small groups and more.

Curson said even before playtime, the students are asked to plan what toys they would like to play with.

The teachers then meet with them in small groups after playtime to reflect on what they did.