



Lenawee residents attend Sandbox convention

By John Mulcahy
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EAST LANSING, Mich. — Kay Barber of Adrian and her 5-year-old twin son and daughter joined about 5,000 people Thursday at the first-ever Sandbox Party convention in East Lansing.

The convention was organized by the nonprofit Early Childhood Investment Corp. to focus attention on the need to maintain funding for early childhood programs in Michigan, according to organizers.

Barber and her children were among about 250 people

One of the goals of the convention was to impress candidates Virg Bernero, with the importance of early childhood

Snyder, the Republican candidate for governor, and B

“It showed those candidates that we are strong in nur

Besides that, there were activities for children, entertainment at Michigan State University’s Breslin Student Event C

“It was a really well put together event,” she said.

The convention was billed as nonpartisan and nonpol

Margaret Gross, director of the Lenawee Great Start Collaborative Investment Corp., said the Lenawee collaborative has 100 members.

The group coordinates community resources and supports

Providing services to the very young is critical because

“You can literally change the trajectory of a child’s fut

Besides impressing the gubernatorial and other candidates, the convention also was an opportunity to get parents more

“We want them to feel more connected to the election process, like that, they get more energized.”

Four buses took people from Lenawee County to the c

The Early Childhood Investment Corp. was formed in 2008 after State Speech. The organization receives funds from both Michigan and begin kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed.

Barber, whose children will enter the Montessori program at St. Joseph Academy in Adrian this fall, said she initially became involved with Great Start “for the advocacy part” after learning about the amount of brain development that occurs in the first five years of life, and because she wants all children to come to kindergarten able to learn.

The Lenawee Great Start Collaborative’s website is www.lenaweegreatstart.org.

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