

Greene County Board of DD FOUR OAKS EARLY INTERVENTION www.greenedd.org

Fall 2020 Newsletter



Important Dates:

Story Time with Beth: Wednesdays & Fridays - 11:30-12:00, *see flyer for details*

Primary Service Provider Meetings: Tuesdays, *contact PSP for details*

Four Oaks Closed:

September 7th. Labor Day

November 11th. Veterans Day

November 26-27th. Thanksgiving

Hours/Delivery of Services:

Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Four Oaks direct staff are continuing to provide virtual visits only to all of our EI families until further notice. We will be sure to inform families once we start moving back to in-person services. In addition, all GCBDD staff are working remotely through December 31st. Although we are not in our offices, we are available during our regular business hours. We appreciate your continued support and patience during this time as the health and safety of our Greene County Families and Staff are of the utmost importance.

Hello from the Director

Dear Parents,

The school year is starting, and my favorite season is upon us! This year has absolutely presented its challenges, but I am confident that we will all come out stronger for it. As Four Oaks' new Program Director, I look forward to continuing to serve the families of Greene County and our amazing staff.

I live in Beavercreek with my husband, David, and daughter, Evelyn. Being a mom of a two year old little girl has opened my eyes to a whole new understanding and respect for the families in our program. Over the past years as a Developmental Specialist and Program Manager, I have witnessed so much love, strength, and compassion that our families have for their children. The little victories and major milestones, no matter how big or small, and the privilege of celebrating with you and our staff has made it all so worth it!

Take care and remember that we are here for you. We will continue our commitment to offer the best quality services for your child and family.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Frey".

Jennifer Frey, Early Childhood Program Director



Benefits of Virtual Visits

Why are Virtual EI visits used?

The growing demand for early childhood professionals has created shortages in many areas. Families living in both rural and densely populated areas often have difficulty accessing qualified professionals. Families report difficulty with scheduling, missed visits during inclement weather, and may be reluctant to have EI professionals in their home if they or their child has a compromised immune system or for other reasons.

What is a Virtual Early Intervention (EI) visit?

Also known as Telehealth, Virtual EI visits are a method of providing services via the internet. Virtual EI visits can be provided through a personal computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone using a secure network. The EI professional and family or caregiver are both present in real time.

How can Virtual EI visits support families?

- Allow families to gain access to early childhood professionals who may be far away or very specialized
- Focuses on parent-child relationship and interactions, increasing parent confidence in supporting their child
- Allow families with internet access the flexibility to work with EI professionals from a secure location
- Families can schedule times that are convenient and may include other family members
- Empower families to confidently implement strategies between sessions

Information located at Idaho Infant Toddler Program: <https://infanttoddler.idaho.gov>

To view complete flyer:

https://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/topics/disaster/id_Virtual_EI_Family_Flyer_March_2020.pdf

Parents/Caregivers Welcome

With our Primary Service Provider (PSP) evidence-based practices, every family has access to a multidisciplinary Core Team consisting of our Developmental Specialists (DS), Occupational Therapists (OT), Physical Therapists (PT), Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP) and an Early Intervention Service Coordinator (EISC). We have also continued to work closely with other agencies in the area to better meet specific needs such as the Deaf Community Resource Center, The Ohio State School for the Blind, and Child Focus (Infant Mental Health). In addition, we have our Program Licensed Social Worker and our Sign Language Specialist available.

We want to remind families that they have access to weekly Core Team meetings that include updates, coaching, and discussion about how to best meet family needs and how to best promote their child's learning and development. Each child is updated quarterly and discussed during coaching when needed. Families are welcome to attend via virtual platform (GoToMeeting), or call in during the portion of the meeting that their child and family are being discussed. Please contact your PSP if you would like to be in attendance or if you would like more information.

If you must cancel or reschedule an appointment:

Please call your Primary Service Provider (PSP) or the Four Oaks scheduler at (937)562-7003 if you will be unable to keep your scheduled appointment.



What's Happening at Four Oaks

- Developmental Specialist, Andrea Geiger has accepted the position of Early Intervention Program Manager. Congratulations Andrea!
- We are happy to announce the addition of Tina Snyder, Occupational Therapist. Tina comes to us with much passion for and experience in Early Intervention. Below is a brief bio outlining her education and experience. Welcome Tina!

I am a Pediatric Occupational Therapist. I am also a military veteran. I received my initial training in the field of Occupational Therapy at the Academy of Health Sciences, U.S. Army, at the Brooke Army Medical Center. I completed my Occupational Therapy degree at the University of Findlay. I have worked in a variety of settings: hospitals, schools and homes. I am also a certified P.L.A.Y. Project home consultant. The P.L.A.Y. Project (Play & Language for Autistic Youngsters) is an evidence-based developmental intervention for families of young children with autism spectrum disorders. I believe play is the foundational skill that helps children to interact, engage and explore their surroundings and build relationships. I am excited to be a part of Four Oaks Early Intervention Program. ~ Tina

- Story Time with Beth: Wednesdays & Fridays - 11:30-12:00, *see flyer for details*
- Four Oaks playground will remain closed at this time.
- Looking for the latest Program information and upcoming activities? Check us out at the following sites:
Greene County Board of DD website: www.greenedd.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/greencountydd/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/greencodd1>



Hello from Four Oaks Program Manager

Greetings Four Oaks Families,

I am delighted to introduce myself as Four Oaks' new Program Manager! I am excited to have the opportunity to provide support in a different capacity for our wonderful Greene County Families and amazing Early Intervention staff.

I began my journey with Four Oaks Early Intervention as a student intern in 2011. After observing what an impact Early Intervention has on families' lives, it confirmed my passion for this field. For the last six years, I have served as a Developmental Specialist and have greatly enjoyed it. In my years as a Developmental Specialist, I received a certification as a PLAY Project Consultant and was trained in Infant Massage. As I have grown as a professional, my family has grown as well! I live in Fairborn with my husband, Michael and our two-year-old daughter, Scarlett. She keeps us on our toes but we wouldn't have it any other way! I look forward to the upcoming years serving our Greene County Families and providing support to the Early Intervention staff. I hope you all are staying safe and healthy.

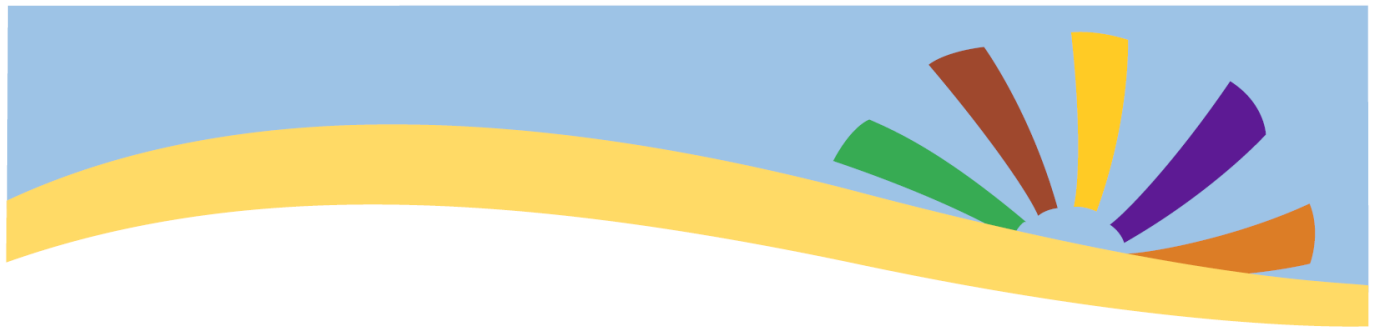
Andrea Geiger, Early Childhood Program Manager

We are here for you

If at any time you should have questions or concern about the services we provide to your child and family please know that GCBDD, Four Oaks Leadership and Staff are here to support you. You may contact us via your Primary Service Provider (PSP) or by calling the main Program number, (937) 562-7000.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of serving your family!





Story Time with Beth

Ms. Beth is a Developmental Specialist with Four Oaks Early Intervention. She has a passion for helping little ones learn, grow & experience the world around them.

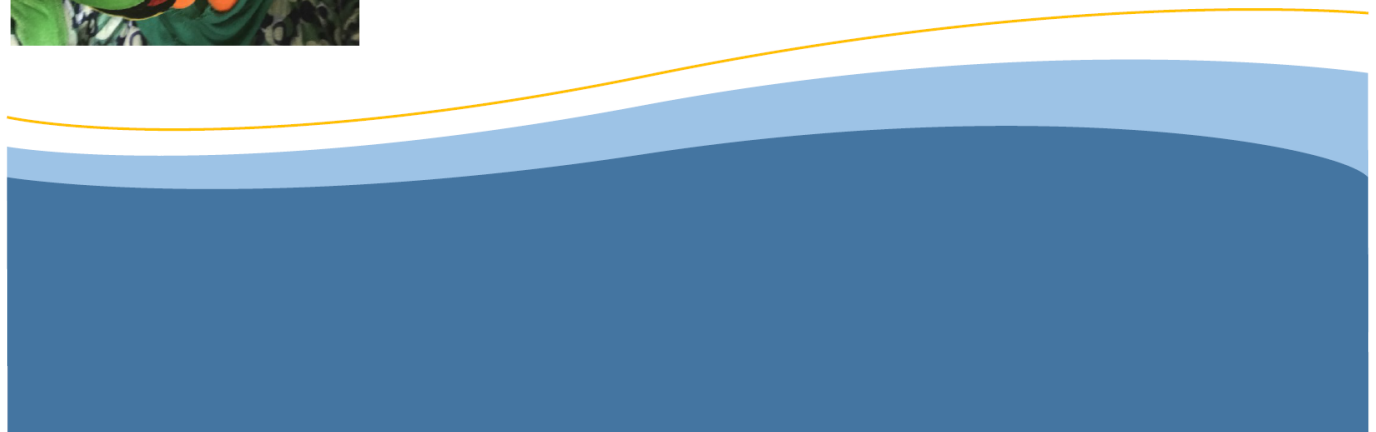
Please join her for a time of stories, fun songs and games. Beth will have special guest appearances from some of her puppet friends from time to time as well. There is plenty of fun and laughter to be had so please join us! We look forward to seeing you there!!



When: Wednesdays & Fridays at 11:30 -12:00

Where: Online via Zoom

How: RSVP to bbrennaman@greenedd.org or contact your Primary Service Provider (PSP)





TALK, READ AND SING TOGETHER EVERY DAY!

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

When you talk, read and sing with your child – even before they can use words – you’re helping them learn. And making them happier too! Research shows that talking, reading and singing with your child every day from birth helps build their brains as well as important language, math, reading and social skills for use in school and beyond. Talk, read and sing with your child in the language you are most comfortable using.

You probably naturally talk to your baby about the events of the day. Keep doing it, and do it more! The more words and conversations you share together, the better prepared they will be to learn. You are your baby’s first teacher!

For children with disabilities or delays, communicate with your service providers and keep each other informed about the strategies you are using to enhance their language environment.

TIPS FOR INFANTS

TALK

- Your touch and voice help your baby learn. Listen to the fun sounds your baby makes and repeat them. When they coo, coo back. Hold their hand gently and when they smile, smile back. Your loving touch combined with this back-and-forth “baby language” are the first steps in talking.
- Everywhere you go, talk about what you see and what your baby is looking at: “Wow, I see the four dogs, too!” “I love that red truck you’re playing with. It goes beep beep!”
- Play “Peek-a-boo” while getting your baby dressed. Ask, “Where’s (baby’s name)?” when you pull a shirt over your baby’s head. Then say, “There you are!”
- As you feed your baby, use words to describe what foods taste, feel, and look like. “This yogurt is smooth.” “That yellow banana is sweet!”
- Looking into your baby’s eyes, holding your baby’s hand, and talking to your baby in a high voice are all ways that you can help your child grow up to be a confident, loving adult.

READ

- Read a book or tell a story to your baby every day – in whatever language you feel most comfortable – beginning at birth.
- Cuddle with your baby as you share a book. It doesn’t matter how young your child is; even newborn babies are learning when their parents read with them.
- Point to the book’s pictures: “Look, the train goes choo-choo!” Using words to describe what you see builds language.

SING

- Hold your baby close during bedtime and sing a favorite song again and again. Singing the same song can help your baby feel calm and safe.
- Sing silly songs about your day to help get your baby’s attention during diaper changing.
- Your baby loves to hear your voice even if you think you can’t sing! The sound of your voice is comforting to your baby.

TIPS FOR TODDLERS

TALK

- Everywhere you go, talk about what you see. A stop sign, a traffic light, or a tree might seem boring to you, but it's a whole new world to your child, so teach them about it!
- Young children learn best during playful, everyday activities. Play "I-Spy" in the grocery store together. Choose a color and encourage your child to point out objects that match the color.
- Try some early math activities: point out shapes on your child's plate or around the kitchen. Ask your child, "How many sides does a square have?" "How about a triangle?"
- Play games during bath time to help your child learn new words. Take turns dropping toys in the water. Say, "Watch it sink!" or "It floats!"

READ

- You can inspire a love of books and words in your young child by reading or telling a story together every day.
- Point to the pictures, letters, and numbers in books. Ask open-ended questions as you share the book together. "What do you see? How does he feel? What would you do if you were her? What's your favorite page?"
- Let your child turn the book's pages. It's OK if they skip pages, or like a few pages better than others. You just want your child to get used to touching books.

SING

- Sing during everyday activities like driving in the car, or during bath time. It can be repetitive and simple, like "Wash your toes, wash your nose!"
- Singing songs that have basic counting or rhyming patterns also helps children learn basic math skills. "One, two, buckle my shoe. Three, four, open the door."
- Your toddler loves to get positive attention from you. Singing is a great way for you and your toddler to share an activity together.



You can find more tips like these—as well as videos, information, and more—on Too Small to Fail's website, www.talkingisteaching.org.

Every child develops at his or her own pace, but if you are ever worried about your child's development, don't wait! Acting early can make a big difference. Remember, you know your child best. Talk with your child's doctor if you have concerns. Get tips to help you prepare at cdc.gov/Concerned.

For more information on developmental and behavioral screening, visit [Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive!](#)



Activity Page

