



# Greene County Board of D.D. *Four Oaks Early Intervention*

## *EI Adventure Map*

2024, 3rd Quarter

[www.greenedd.org](http://www.greenedd.org)

### *Leadership Way*

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The school year has started, the days are becoming cooler, and my favorite season is upon us! Fall is full of my favorite things and I am pretty sure you can guess what they are. The changing of the leaves, scarves, boots, and everything pumpkin flavored! I especially love all the great food and activities at the local fall festivals. We are very excited that our Early Intervention Team gets to enjoy these things with you and your family in the community, in your home and/or virtually.

You may notice that our team will show you how to make playing a part of your interactions with your child during your EI sessions. This a big part of how your child learns.

“Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play, children learn how to learn.”  
– O. Fred Donaldson

O. Fred Donaldson is highlighting the dual role of play in learning. Children not only acquire knowledge and skills through play but also develop essential learning skills such as curiosity, persistence, and adaptability. Donaldson’s quote emphasizes the idea that play fosters a lifelong love of learning, equipping children with the tools to continue learning independently and effectively throughout their lives.

Take care and remember that the Four Oaks team is here for you. We will continue our commitment to offer the best quality services for your child and family.

With gratitude,

*Jennifer Frey*, Early Childhood Program Director



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### *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.

## Bulletin Blvd.

### **Important Dates:**

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

### **Four Oaks Closed:**

September, 25 Dino Exploration (see attached flyer)

November, 11 Veteran's Day

November, 28 & 29 Thanksgiving Holiday

### **Hours/Delivery of Services:**

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



EI staff work from the Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities office (245 Valley Rd. Xenia 45385) as well as remotely, and are available during typical business hours (8am-4pm Monday through Friday).

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## Parent/Caregivers Welcome Way

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, Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services (OSDB), and Child Focus (Infant Mental Health). In addition, we have our Program Licensed Social Worker available who also provides eligibility coordination for ages 3-5 for the Board.

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 (Zoom), 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.

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## Resource Rd.

- For additional support and information on motor, sensory or communication development visit [www.pathways.org](http://www.pathways.org)
- Greene County Public Library is offering in person and virtual story time options. Visit <https://greenelibrary.info/> click on the events tab for upcoming events.
- Greene County Parks and Trails - Wiggle Worms Program. Visit <https://www.gcparkstrails.com/events/wiggle-worms> to view all upcoming events.
- Common sense media [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org)—Great resource for parents/caregivers to check out media of all types (games, apps, movies, shows, YouTube, etc.) to give them a better idea of appropriateness and media safety depending on age.
- 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](http://www.greenedd.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/greencountydd/>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/greencodd1>

## Resources Cont.

### A book for your child

Piper's Key is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity that gifts inclusive books to children with disabilities that represent their unique selves in a positive light.

You can learn more about this resource here: <https://piperskey.com/about-pipers-key>

### All Hands In

Through our All Hands In network, we collaborate with local businesses, community groups/agencies and providers to offer meaningful and integrated opportunities for individuals in their communities. Based on individual feedback, we coordinate community activities throughout the year.

All Hands End Network was designed to help the disability community live lives that are more connected. Please reference their attached newsletter to see what great events are scheduled for September.

### Playdough

A classic childhood toy everyone can have fun with, and it's so easy to make at home.

#### **Ingredients:**

2 cups flour  
2 cups warm water  
1 cup salt  
2 Tablespoons vegetable oil  
1 Tablespoon cream of tartar  
(optional for improved elasticity)  
food coloring (liquid, powder, or unsweetened drink mix)

Mix all of the ingredients together in a large mixing bowl, pour into a skillet and stir over low heat. The dough will begin to thicken until it resembles mashed potatoes.

When the dough pulls away from the sides and clumps in the center remove the pan from heat and allow the dough to cool enough to handle.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: if your playdough is still sticky, you simply need to cook it longer!**





## The Importance of Gestures

By Lauren Lowry

Hanen Certified SLP and Clinical Staff Writer

It may come as a surprise to hear that speech language pathologists think a lot about gestures. The words “speech language” in our job title sometimes gives the impression that we are focused on how children express themselves verbally. However, a very important part of communication development takes place well before a child says his or her first word – and that is the development of gestures.

Below, you’ll find some answers to questions parents often ask about gestures.



## When Should I Expect My Child to Start Using Gestures?

Children can begin to use gestures as early as 8 or 9 months of age. Here are some important milestones in the development of gestures [1,2]:

- At approximately 10 months, children begin to draw attention or point to objects or events – first children learn to *show* (by holding up an object), then *give* (by giving an object to someone), and finally *point* (toward a specific object, location, or event) [3]. These types of gestures are used before children start to talk.
- Between 9-13 months, children start to make requests using gestures – such as reaching with an open-and-closed grasping motion, putting an adult’s hand on an object, and pulling an adult’s hand towards a desired item or action.
- Before a child can say 25 words he has usually developed some “iconic” gestures – these gestures demonstrate the meaning of the word they represent. Blowing to indicate bubbles

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or flapping one's arms to represent a bird are examples of iconic gestures. Some iconic gestures are specific to certain cultures, such as thumbs up to mean "good job".

- Between 12 and 18 months, children rarely use gestures and spoken words at the same time
- At around 18 months, children begin to combine gestures and words – at first, when children use a gesture and say a word at the same time, both the gesture and the word mean the same thing (e.g. child points to a dog and says "dog"). Soon after, children use a gesture and say a word at the same time, but the gesture and the word mean *different things* (e.g. child points to a dog and says "big"). When a child starts to use gestures along with a word, but the gesture has a different meaning from the word, this usually means that the child will soon start to combine words.

The gestures a child uses – even before he says his first word – tell us a lot about how his communication development is progressing.

So you can see that the gestures a child uses – even before he says his first word – tell us a lot about how his communication development is progressing.

## If I Encourage My Child to Gesture, Won't It Hinder His Speech Development?

No it won't. Quite the opposite!

There is a strong link between gestures and speech in communication development. Not only are gestures used before spoken language, but studies have shown that the use of gestures predict when certain language milestones will emerge. For example [2, 4]:

- Children who produce more gestures early on have larger expressive vocabularies later in development.
- A child who points to or shows an object will likely learn the word for that object within 3 months.
- Children combine gestures with words before they combine words together.
- Children who often combine gestures and words together that have *different meanings* (e.g. point to the dog and say "big") early on are likely to use relatively complex sentences a few years later.
- Children's gesture use predicts their story telling abilities later on.
- Children with expressive language delays have greater language gains when their parents use gestures and words at the same time during interactions with their child.

Therefore, gestures and speech go hand-in-hand. By encouraging gestures, you promote your child's overall communication development. Gestures provide a child with a way to express himself before he is able to verbally. And when a child uses a gesture, his listeners respond by saying something about what he has communicated, providing language he can learn from.

## How Can I Help My Child Use Gestures?

There are many ways you can promote your child's use of gestures [4]:

- **Point to or hold up objects** in your everyday interactions with your child.
- **Use gestures that demonstrate the meaning of the word** ("iconic" gestures) – The most helpful iconic gestures for learning words are those that show the shape or function of the object [4]. For example, holding your hands in the shape of a ball while you say "ball" or doing a throwing action while you say "ball" are helpful gestures.
- **Be sure to use the gesture and the word at the same time** – This helps reinforce the meaning of the word for your child.
- **When your child uses a gesture, acknowledge it by copying it and saying the word that matches the gesture.**
- **Make gestures part of your everyday interactions with your child** – There's no special time or place needed to use gestures with your child. Using simple gestures while you talk with your child throughout the day will help build his communication skills.

Using simple gestures while you talk with your child throughout the day will help build his communication skills.

## Should I Teach My Child Baby Signs?

The information above relates to natural gestures, not sign language. For most children, there is no extra benefit to being taught specially developed baby signs [5]. Some populations of children, such as children with Down's Syndrome, benefit from exposure to signs. But for the majority of young children, pointing and gestures that demonstrate the meaning of the word are very helpful. For more information about baby signs, read our article ["Does Baby Sign Make a Difference?"](#)

## What Should I Do If My Child Isn't Using Gestures?

If you are concerned about your child's development and he isn't meeting expected gesture milestones, talk to a speech language pathologist or your child's doctor. You may also want to read ["When should you seek help?"](#) for a list of several communication milestones.



## References

1. Capone, N. C. & McGregor, K. K. (2004). Gesture development: A review for clinical and research practices. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 47, 173-186.
2. Goldin-Meadow, S. (2015). Gesture as a window onto communicative abilities: Implications for diagnosis and intervention. *Perspectives on Language Learning and Education*, 22, 50-60.
3. Mastrogiuseppe, M., Capirci, O., Cuva, S. & Venuti, P. (2015). Gestural communication in children with autism spectrum disorders during mother-child interaction. *Autism*, 19(4), 469-481.
4. Capone Singleton, N. & Saks, J. (2015). Co-speech gesture input as a support for language learning in children with and without early language delay. *Perspectives on Language Learning and Education*, 22, 61-71.
5. Kirk, E., Howlett, N., Pine, K. J., & Fletcher, B. C. (2012). To sign or not to sign? The impact of encouraging infants to gesture on infant language and maternal mind-mindedness. *Child Development*, 84(2), 574-590.

### About The Hanen Centre

*Founded in 1975, The Hanen Centre is a Canadian not-for-profit charitable organization with a global reach. Its mission is to provide parents, caregivers, early childhood educators and speech-language pathologists with the knowledge and training they need to help young children develop the best possible language, social and literacy skills. This includes children who have or are at risk for language delays, those with developmental challenges such as autism, and those who are developing typically.*

*For more information, please visit [www.hanen.org](http://www.hanen.org).*

The Hanen Centre is a Registered Charitable Organization (#11895 2357 RR0001)



Toad-ally Together is a new program partnered by Greene County Parks & Trails and Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities to bring kids and families of all abilities *together* to have fun in our backyard! Geared towards children ages 2 & up and of all abilities.

Location:

Russ Nature Reserve  
2380 Kemp Road  
Beavercreek, OH 45431

We hope to see  
you all there!



Dino Exploration

NEW DATE!

Wednesday,  
September 25th, 2024  
5:00 PM—7:00 PM



These are **FREE** events, registration requested but not required, walk-ins welcome.  
You will find information and registration on the Greene County Parks & Trails website.

Search under “Youth Programming”, click on “Toad-ally Together”



*Please join us online for a session on...*



# Positive Parenting

The Early Childhood Mental Health Team at the Greene County ESC will facilitate virtual meetings to empower parents of children ages 0-10, through positive supportive networking. Each month new information will be presented to encourage us to reflect on communication with our children without blame or shame, but through the use of humor, support, and resource sharing.

We will create a space for honest conversations about the challenges of raising children to help avoid burnout and build stronger relationships.

*This month's topic: Back to School Sleep Survival Guide*

## **Session Times:**

**Tuesday September 10th - 8:00pm-8:30pm**

**Thursday September 12th - 1:00pm-1:30pm**

**Tuesday September 24th- 8:00pm-8:30pm**

**Thursday September 26th - 1:00pm-1:30pm**

**\*\*Attend any of these sessions, no commitment needed. Questions from parents always guide our discussion. Feel free to just listen in or participate!**

**Register and join each meeting here:**

<https://zoom.us/j/97049694203>



**E-mail:**

**[ECMHTeam@greeneESC.org](mailto:ECMHTeam@greeneESC.org) to learn more or for any questions!**

**Or ask to join our mailing list for Social Emotional Learning tips, freebies, and activities!**

Or scan the QR Code to join!







## All Hands In SEPTEMBER EVENTS



Not receiving our e-mails? Join our mailing list! E-mail [allhandsin@greenedd.org](mailto:allhandsin@greenedd.org) to be added.

### Speed Friending!



Do you want more friends? Are you interested in meeting new people? If so, we have the event for you!

The GCBDD Healthy Relationships Team is excited to announce they are partnering with MCBDDS to host a Speed Friending Event.

The actual Speed Friending Event will take place on 11/13 but to participate, you must sign up for a six week class on healthy relationships.

There are only 10 spots available for each county for this event so please reach out quickly to Amber Newman at [ANewman@mcbbds.org](mailto:ANewman@mcbbds.org) if you are interested.

### Coffee Talk!!



Coffee Talk!  
September 4th  
11:00am-1:00pm  
Coffee Hub  
at Toward  
Independence  
Have a drink  
and make  
friends!

### Karaoke-September 11th!

Due to popular demand, Karaoke is moving back to TJ Chumps on Wednesday, September 11th from 5:00pm-7:00pm

The address is  
1100 East Dayton Yellow  
Springs Road, Fairborn  
Please RSVP to  
[allhandsin@greenedd.org](mailto:allhandsin@greenedd.org)  
if you plan to attend!



The Dungeons and Dragons crew is meeting at the Dragon's Guild Hall in Beavercreek on Wednesday September 4th and 18th from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

D&D updates are communicated through a text list so please email Josh if interested.

## D&D







## All Hands In SEPTEMBER EVENTS



Not receiving our e-mails? Join our mailing list! E-mail [allhandsin@greenedd.org](mailto:allhandsin@greenedd.org) to be added.



### Diner's Club is trying a new restaurant.... Red Robin!!!

We'll be meeting on Monday,  
September 30th at Red Robin  
in Beavercreek from 5-7pm.

The address is  
2671 Fairfield Commons,  
Beavercreek, OH 45431.

And 20% of the sales go to All  
Hands In!!

Please RSVP to  
[Allhandsin@greenedd.org](mailto:Allhandsin@greenedd.org)  
if you plan to attend.  
Please arrive promptly (close  
to 5pm) if possible.



### Parent Support Advisory Council



The Parent Support Advisory Council is  
meeting on September 23rd from 6:00pm-7:45pm  
at the Beavercreek Library. If you would like  
information about joining or have any questions  
please reach out to Debra Williamson at  
[dwilliamson@edisonohio.edu](mailto:dwilliamson@edisonohio.edu).



### Wright State Adaptive Phys. Ed

The Wright State Adaptive PE program has 15 spots  
available for anyone that would like to participate. For  
more information please reach out to  
[deborah.osterfeld@wright.edu](mailto:deborah.osterfeld@wright.edu)

### Something for kids!

The GCBDD EI Team is  
partnering with GCPT to host  
a Dino Exploration event at  
Russ Nature Reserve for ages  
2 & up on September 25th  
from 5:00-7:00pm. For more  
information:

<https://greencountyoh.myrec.com/info/activities/>







## All Hands In SEPTEMBER EVENTS



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### Community Corner



Let me introduce you to  
Jacob.

Jacob and his family are  
new to our All Hands In  
network. He may be younger  
but that doesn't stop him  
from getting out into the  
community.

Jacob recently used his  
communication device to  
express his interest in riding  
an RTA bus. And that is  
exactly what he is doing in  
this picture. What a great  
example of self-advocacy!



### Best Friends

If you attend All Hands In Events, you have  
probably met Alex and Helen. They are good  
friends that get out and do all kinds of fun stuff.  
Here they are at Ford's Garage in Liberty Township.  
What do you do for fun? Send us pictures at  
[allhandsin@greenedd.org](mailto:allhandsin@greenedd.org)!

### A night at the Dragons

