



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

*EI Adventure Map*

2025, 1st Quarter

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

*Leadership Way*

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

“If we had no Winter, the Spring would not be so pleasant.” -Anne Bradstreet. We wanted to thank you all very much for being so flexible and rescheduling whether your PSP was ill or if you were ill. We truly appreciate all of you and being so understanding and communicative during such an ill-heavy Winter.

Looking into Spring, we are ready for sunshine, grass, flowers and warmer weather here in Greene County Board of DD Early Intervention! We are excited to announce that Greene County Parks & Trails will be joining Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities again for 2 Toad-ally Together events coming in late Spring and mid-Summer!

Two dates have been confirmed for the Toad-ally Together events for ages 2 and up taking place at the Russ Nature Reserve on Kemp Road in Beavercreek on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-12:00pm and Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-12:00pm. Registration will be available on GCPT website. More information to come.

We are eager to continue serving Greene County families within Early Intervention in a variety of ways! We hope everyone will be able to join us in enjoying some family time in the sun as we approach warmer weather!

With Gratitude,

*Jennifer Frey, Early Childhood Program Director*

*Andrea Geiger, Early Childhood Program Manager*



**Toad-ally Together**

Partnership between GCBDD and  
Greene County Parks & Trails

***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*  
**June 27th-** Toad-ally Together, Luau in the Park. Reg. available on GCPT website

### Four Oaks Closed:

May 26th - Memorial Day  
June 19th - Juneteenth

### Hours/Delivery of Services:

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

Four Oaks direct staff are continuing to provide services in a multitude of locations. Virtual visits have become a wonderful option for service delivery, and we will continue providing them for the foreseeable future, in addition to community and home visits. Service delivery will be discussed and decided jointly amongst the EI team (your family included). EI staff work remotely as well as from the Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities office (245 Valley Rd. Xenia 45385) and are available during typical business hours (8am-4pm Monday



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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). Within our coaching model, each of our team members are available to coach families Primary Service Provider if needed or as different concerns arise. 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)
- Ohio Parent to Parent (P2P) - Parent/Caregiver mentor group; search: Ohio Parent to Parent or P2P USA
- 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.
- 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/greencoddl>

# My Rights

*Language simplification of the Greene County Board of DD's Bill of Rights*  
(from Ohio Revised Code 5123.63)

I have the right:

- To be treated nicely at all times and as an individual.
- To a safe, clean home. (If a licensed home, it is checked every year by the State and by the local fire department)
- To be alone with family and friends.
- To get meals that are healthy and good for me.
- To go to the church of my choice or not to go to church at all.
- To go to the doctor or dentist when I need to, and as soon as I need to.
- To have people help me with the way I talk, walk or do things with my hands.
- To get people to help me with the way I act and/or feel.
- To accept assistance or training without it being forced on me.
- To have some time to myself and a place to be by myself.
- To use the telephone, write letters, or talk with anyone I want about any topic I want to discuss, in a responsible way.
- To keep things of my own that I choose to have.
- To socialize and to be friends with both men and women.
- To join in activities and do things that will help me grow to be the best person I can be.
- To have a job and make money.
- To be treated like everyone else under the law. (No one should hit me, hurt me, yell at me, or say mean and hurtful things to me.)
- To go to school or work and meet and work with other people.
- To programs that will help me and to participate in activities.
- To decide things that will affect me.
- To ask someone like my parents, and advocate, or a friend to speak with me and/or for me and help me do things.
- To manage and spend my own money based on my ability to do so.
- To have the information in my file kept private.
- To complain if I don't agree with something, and to not be threatened by others to change my mind or get me into trouble.
- To learn how laws are made; join in community decisions; vote for people who I want to make laws; and be able to tell them how I feel about laws.
- To say "no" to being part of any study or experiment.

I cannot be given medications to control my behavior, be tied up, held down, or locked up unless it is needed to keep me from hurting others, myself, or if I have agreed and there is a written plan in place.

# Positive Parenting

Raising Resiliency:  
Uplifting families

Free, informal, 30 minute virtual sessions



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

No registration required

Tuesday March 11th at 8 pm  
Thursday March 13th at 1 pm  
Tuesday March 25th at 8 pm  
Thursday March 27th at 1 pm

# Positive Parenting

Greentime:  
Focusing on Being Outside

Free, informal, 30 minute virtual sessions



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

No registration required

Tuesday April 8th at 8 pm  
Thursday April 10th at 1 pm  
Tuesday April 22nd at 8 pm  
Thursday April 24th at 1 pm

# Positive Parenting

Celebrating Achievements:  
Big and Small

Free, informal, 30 minute virtual sessions



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

No registration required

Tuesday May 13th at 8 pm  
Thursday May 15th at 1 pm  
Tuesday May 27th at 8 pm  
Thursday May 29th at 1 pm



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
ECMHTEAM@GREENEESC.ORG



# Be Tech Wise With Toddler!

Creating a Healthy Technology Environment for Your Toddler (Ages 1 to 3)

It's a busy and exciting time! Your toddler is picking up new words quickly, developing their personality, and learning by observing the world around them and testing boundaries. This is all part of their healthy development.

## Did You Know?

You boost your toddler's brain, communication, and social/emotional development through everyday interactions: **talking, reading, and playing together**. Setting healthy screen time boundaries allows more time for these important activities.

From birth to age 3, your child's brain grows most rapidly. More than one million neural connections form in their brain every second. You build their brain when your toddler tries to communicate with you—and you respond back in a way that meets their needs.

## Help Your Toddler Thrive

Talking, reading, and playing with your toddler helps:

- Further grow your strong and loving bond.
- Boost their vocabularies and language abilities.
- Prepare them for friendships and preschool.
- Build the foundation for reading and writing skills.



## What does your toddler need to grow their brains, build their spoken language skills, and develop relationships?

**Nurturing, warm, and responsive adults.** Watch for, and name, a child's feelings ("I can see you're upset") to build trust, social skills, and healthy relationships.

**Lots of language from people around them.** Your child will go from saying first words (around 12 months) to putting words together (by 18–24 months) to speaking in sentences before you know it. They learn to talk by listening to you! Older siblings are great language teachers, too.

**Plenty of play time.** Free play develops creativity and teaches kids to entertain themselves. No need for screens to keep them busy! Children learn not only by sight and sound but by touch, taste, and smell—senses that screens can't activate.

**Limited screen time.** Too much screen use, by children or parents, can take valuable time away from talking, reading, playing, and interacting with each other.

## How Much Screen Time?

The American Academy of Pediatrics makes the following screen time recommendations for toddlers:

- **Under 18 months:** No screen time except for video chatting with loved ones.
- **18–24 months:** A small amount, at most, of high-quality programming, if you choose.
- **2–5 years:** A maximum of 1 hour per day. "Co-view" (watch together) rather than have young children (of any age) use screens while alone.

## Screens and Toddlers: What Parents Should Know

The use of screens can interrupt your toddler's healthy development. Here's why screen-free time is important:

- Too much screen time can **delay speech and language development**. Studies show that higher screen use is associated with poorer language skills in toddlers. This can lead to later learning challenges.
- Children make sense of their world by experiencing words and concepts in *real life*. When they learn a new word on a screen, they **don't fully understand the word** until they see, hold, feel, smell, and/or taste it.
- Screens **limit the imagination** because they provide only a set number of choices, driven by corporate interests. In a child's brain, the possibilities are endless.
- When we give toddlers screens to distract them from being upset, this can make it **harder for them to learn how to express their feelings** in a healthy way and manage their emotions.
- When we hand toddlers a screen to keep them occupied, they **miss out on developing important social and behavioral skills**—how to play by themselves, comfort themselves, and learn to wait and be patient.

## A Healthy Technology Environment: Use These Tips to Help Your Toddler Thrive

- **Keep the TV off as your toddler plays.** Studies have shown that parents and caregivers speak fewer words when the TV is on—even in the background.
- **Provide "old-fashioned" toys.** Blocks, balls, cars, dolls, puzzles, and even household items (e.g., boxes, pots/pans) are best. And remember: Loving adults are the best "toys!"
- **Minimize multi-tasking.** If you are speaking to your toddler, put your phone down to allow yourself to make eye contact and listen fully—even if for just a moment.
- **Talk to your childcare provider about screen time.** Do they keep the TV on? Use other electronics during the day? Tell them your preference for limited to no screens.
- **Turn to your pediatrician, speech-language pathologist, and other trusted experts** for guidance about screen-time use. You aren't alone in trying to find balance.

### The takeaway on screens:

Zero screen time for your toddler is best—but not always realistic. What's most important is that you do your best to achieve a healthy balance.



For more information about your toddler's communication development, visit [www.IdentifytheSigns.org](http://www.IdentifytheSigns.org).  
For more about children's screen time, visit [www.screentimeneck.org](http://www.screentimeneck.org).



**Additional Resources/Information to share:**

**F.A.S.T.**

What is **FAST**?

**FAST** is a collaboration with families, Early Intervention, Local Schools & Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities to help families work together to aim for greater outcomes for their children.

**Location:** 245 North Valley Road Xenia OH 45385 and virtual (*for virtual link or questions please email Josh Welhener at [jwelhener@greenedd.org](mailto:jwelhener@greenedd.org).*)

**Future Dates and Topics:**

**April 29th:** High child expectations lead to high outcomes!

**September 25th:** Self Care: You Can't Care for Your Family if you don't care for yourself

**December 2nd:** To be determined

**All Hands In Mailing List**

Alright folks, we are down to 31 days until we switch to our new mailing list! If you have not completed our new mailing list form, please do so as soon as possible. This new list will allow us to communicate more effectively and by age group.

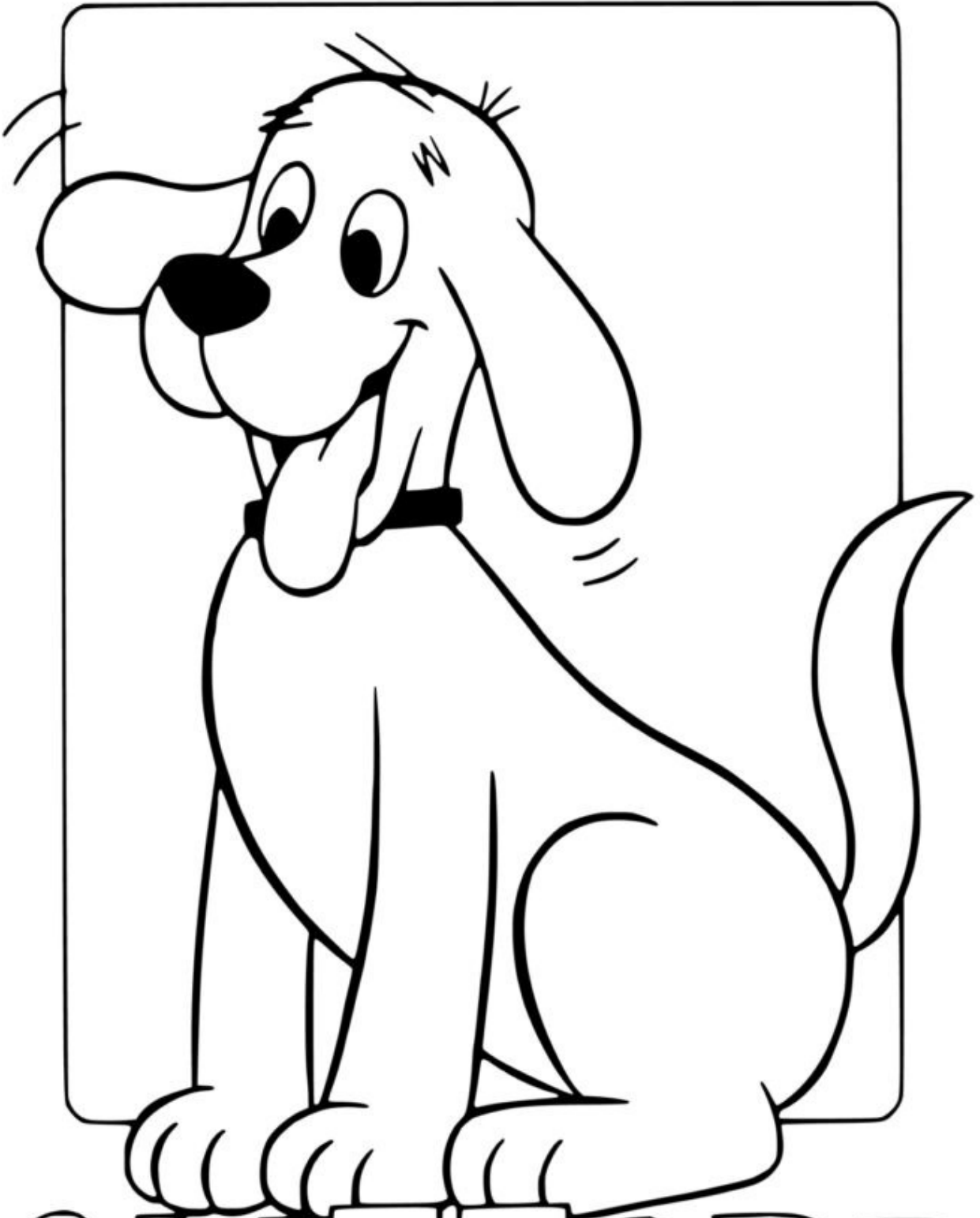
Scan the QR code below or click on the image.

All Hands In Updated Contact Information



NOT RECEIVING OUR E-MAILS?  
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!  
E-MAIL [ALLHANDSIN@GREENEDD.ORG](mailto:ALLHANDSIN@GREENEDD.ORG)  
TO BE ADDED.





CLIFFORD