



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

EI Adventure Map

2025, 4th Quarter

www.greenedd.org

Director Dr.



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As the holiday season arrives and we begin to look toward a new year, it's a natural time to pause, reflect, and appreciate the partnerships that make early intervention so meaningful. At the center of every success story, every milestone, and every moment of progress, is one constant: family.

Parents and caregivers are truly the heart of early intervention. You know your child better than anyone else. You know their routines, their personality, their strengths, and the little things that make them unique. Your involvement, encouragement and everyday interactions are what create the foundation of your child's learning and growth. Our role is to support, guide and work alongside you, but the meaningful changes happen because of the love, consistency and effort you provide at home.

During this season of gratitude, we want to thank you for welcoming us into your lives and homes, trusting us to be a small part of your child's journey. It is an honor to support your family, celebrate your child's achievements, and navigate challenges together.

As we move into a new year, we look forward to continuing this partnership and in helping your child grow, strengthening the routines that work for your family and offering the support you need along the way. We are excited for all that the new year will bring and grateful to walk beside you through each step.

Wishing you and your family a warm, joyful holiday season and a bright start to the year ahead.

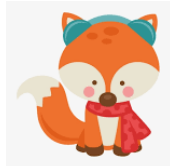
With gratitude,

Jennifer Frey, Early Childhood Program Director

& *Andrea Geiger*, Early Intervention Program Manager

Spotlight:

Vanessa Emanoff, Eligibility Coordinator for the Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities, is available to assist families navigating eligibility as your child approaches age 3. If you are considering continuing services through the Board, please reach out to Vanessa for personalized guidance and support at (937) 562-6512 or vemanoff@greenedd.org



Bulletin Blvd.

Four Oaks Closed:

December 24th-31st Christmas
January 1st, New Years
January 19th, Martin Luther King Day
February 16th, Presidents Day



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 through Friday).

Resource Rd.

- For additional support and information on motor, sensory or communication development visit 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
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/greencountydd/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/greenecodd1>

“Starting from birth, young kids need to hear words and have conversations with the people in their lives, which is a much different experience than sitting in front of a screen. A conversation is back-and-forth and responsive, while watching television is passive and one-way.”

FROM: <https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/first-things/television-videos-dont-help-young-children-learn-new-words/>

<https://www.asha.org/public/developmental-milestones/>

ASHA resource (credible/reputable) for feeding milestones and communication milestones, segmented into 1) What should my child be able to do? and 2) What can I do to help? Sections for:

Birth to 1 Year, 13-18 Months, 19-24 Months, 2-3 Years, 3-4 Years, 4-5 Years

Consideration of Developmental Stage and the Debate on the Effects of Screens Use—Not All Things Are Created Equal | Child Development | JAMA Pediatrics | JAMA Network

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 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).

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.

Activity Row



If you must cancel or reschedule an appointment:

Please call your Primary Service Provider (PSP) or the GCBDD main office at (937)562-6500 if you will be unable to keep your scheduled appointment.





The ABCs of Safe Sleep: Protecting Ohio's Infants; Reducing Infant Mortality

Every parent and caregiver wants their baby to sleep soundly and safely. In Ohio, too many infants die each year from unsafe sleep environments. The good news is that these deaths are preventable when families follow simple, proven steps known as the ABCs of Safe Sleep.

A – Alone

Babies should always sleep alone in their own crib, bassinet, or portable play yard. While it's natural to want to cuddle through the night, sharing a bed with an infant increases the risk of suffocation or accidental injury to the child. Parents and caregivers can keep their baby close by placing the crib in the same room, but the baby should always sleep in their own safe space.

B – Back

The safest position for a baby to sleep is on their back for naps and nighttime. Placing a baby on their stomach or side increases the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Babies naturally breathe easier and stay safer when lying on their backs.

C – Crib

A crib, bassinet, or play yard with a firm mattress and fitted sheet is the only safe sleep surface for infants. The sleep space should be free of pillows, blankets, bumper pads, toys, and stuffed animals. Keeping the crib clear ensures babies have plenty of room to breathe and move safely.

Cribs for Kids / Safe Sleep Program in Ohio

Ohio has a Cribs for Kids program to help ensure all babies have a safe place to sleep. Cribs for Kids, an important part of the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) Safe Sleep initiative works to decrease Ohio's infant mortality rate by ensuring babies have a safe sleep environment and families are educated about safe sleep practices. This is accomplished through funding provided to organizations across the state that promote safe sleep practices and distribute free cribs to eligible families.

Find out if you are eligible and connect with your local program here: [Ohio Cribs for Kids County Contact List \(PDF\)](#)

Safe Sleep in Ohio

To guide these efforts, DCY tracks statewide and community-level data to identify gaps, measure progress, and drive targeted action. There is good news. Ohio's infant mortality rate has reached its lowest level in two decades, reflecting the collective impact of prevention strategies, community partnerships, and data-driven solutions.

Ohio is committed to preventing infant sleep-related deaths by sharing the ABCs of Safe Sleep with families, caregivers, and communities. Hospitals, healthcare providers, and state partners work together to raise awareness and provide resources so that every baby can grow and thrive.

By practicing safe sleep every day, families can help protect their little ones during their most vulnerable first year of life. For more information about Safe Sleep, [visit us online](#).

RESOURCES FOR OHIO FAMILIES

Family and Customer Support Center

Call (844) 234-KIDS (5437)

[Email the Family and Customer Support Center](#)

DCY's Family and Customer Support Center provides information, referrals, and assistance for families, providers, and partners. Hours of operation are 8 am to 5 pm EST, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

All inquiries and resolutions are monitored for quality assurance.

Childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

Find information and resources you need at childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.

Child Care Search

Use the [child care search tool](#) to find the early care and education program that meets your needs. You can search by location, type of program, days/hours of operation, services provided, and Step Up To Quality ratings.

Report Abuse and Neglect

Call (855)O-H-CHILD ((855)642-4453) to be connected directly to your county's child welfare or law enforcement office. You can make a report without giving your name.

Interested in becoming a foster parent or adopting a child?

Find an [Agency for Adoption, Foster Care, and Residential Services](#). If you are interested in foster care and/or adoption, you can click the inquiry link in a specific agency's details page or click here: [Inquiry Form](#).

988

The easy-to-remember, three-digit number provides 24/7, free and confidential support to Ohioans in a behavioral health or substance abuse crisis. 988 is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress.

Follow us on social media



Subscribe to Scope

Interested in staying in touch with DCY? Have friends or colleagues who would benefit by learning more? Subscribe to Scope [here](#).



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.)

Future Dates: Please join us on Tuesday, September 30th, at 6:00 pm.

Future Planning: The parents involved with FAST decided to meet monthly instead of quarterly so we are seeking new topics and speakers. Do you have something you would like to learn about? Do you have something you would like to talk about? If so, email Josh at jwelhener@greenedd.org and let's get something scheduled.

All Hands In Mailing List

If you are not on our mailing list, but would like to join, please scan or click on the QR code below. However, this does beg the question, "How did you get this newsletter if you aren't on our mailing list?" No matter how you received it, we welcome you to our community!

All Hands In Updated Contact
Information



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