



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

2026, 1st Quarter Newsletter

www.greenedd.org

A note from Leadership

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

“With the coming of Spring, I am calm again.”- Gustav Mahler. We wanted to thank you all very much for being so flexible and rescheduling throughout inclement weather closures and illness during cold/flu season. The past couple months have provided no shortage of need for flexibility and patience. We truly appreciate all of you and being so understanding and communicative during such an ill-heavy, snow and ice filled Winter. We are looking very much forward to the calm, steady rhythm of Spring.

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 early Fall!

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, May 29th from 10:00am-12:00pm and Thursday, September 24th from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Registration will be available on GCPT website. We eagerly look forward to revealing the theme of each event as the dates near.

Hint: We are ready to dash towards the incredible summer sun and spend a little time outdoors with our Ohana.

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 Board

Important Dates:

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

May 29- Toad-ally Together, Superpower Squad. Reg. available on GCPT website

Four Oaks Closed:

May 25th - 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 through



Parent/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). 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.

Resources & Community Happenings

- 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/greencoddl>

Resources & Community Happenings cont.

City of Fairborn Parks & Recreation Egg-xtra Special Adaptive Egg Hunt March 28th, 2026 from 4-5pm at Community Park in Fairborn.

Egg-xtra Special Adaptive Egg Hunt invites participants of **all** abilities to join a fun-filled hunt where every egg found is a win! Eggs are redeemed for exclusive prizes, ensuring every participant feels special and celebrated. Join us for an inclusive, joyous event for all! We are very excited to be partnering with the **Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities** to ensure an egg-xtra special day for everyone! Visit: <https://fairbornoh.myrec.com> to register

Greene County Parks and Trails

Looking for fun filled activities? Check out the GCP&T website <https://www.gcparkstrails.com> under the “register for programs” tab. There you will find dates and times for events such as:

Toddler & Me Hikes: 1st Thursday of each month Starting May 7th– November. (no cost)
We are back with more hikes for the beginner hikers of Greene County! This preschool program will get those little legs used to hiking in our parks. This 30 minute Toddler & Me program will introduce the children to the outdoor world through short hikes within our parks. The program is designed for an adult to participate with the toddler(s).

Cookie Decorating: Wednesday, 5/6. Three time slots available on GCP&T website (participation fee)
Celebrate the season with a sweet and creative springtime experience! Join us for this cookie decorating event where everyone with or without disabilities are welcome to participate and have fun together. Decorate spring-themed cookies like flowers and butterflies, using bright icing, cheerful sprinkles, and fun toppings.

All supplies are provided, and friendly volunteers will be available to offer support as needed. Bring your creativity, enjoy the fresh spring vibes, and take home your beautifully decorated and delicious treats.

Registration is required, with time slots available at 10:00, 11:00, and 12:00 PM.

Opportunity for Older Siblings

Camp Weebalong (Adaptive):

6/22-6/26 @ 9:00am– 11:30pm ages 5-9 years Register w/ GCP&T



At Camp Weebalong, we believe nature is for all bodies, all brains and all living beings. This half-day camp will feature all of our summer camp fun in a way that is accessible for people of all abilities! Campers will be paired with a buddy to help guide them through the week's activities. We will explore basic outdoor skills, water safety and fun, critters, rocks and dinos, and all things slimy! Campers will have the time of their lives exploring the outdoors in every way they are able! Due to the individual nature of this camp, caregivers are required to stay with campers and help with all self care, leave the rest to us! After registration, you will receive a questionnaire about your camper's ability level and interests so we can make sure they get the most out of Camp Weebalong!

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

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.

Container Baby Syndrome: How Equipment Can Hinder a Child's Development

As a parent or caretaker of an infant, you are undoubtedly aware of the numerous equipment options available for babies. Swings, bouncy seats and car seats are just a few of the products available and advertised to help babies and families. Extended time throughout the day in any or multiple of these items may lead to issues currently referred to as "Container Baby Syndrome."

An infant container is any device that limits movement of a baby and includes

- Infant carriers such as slings and packs
- Nursing pillows or cushions
- Floor seats, car seats and high chairs
- Jumpers or walkers
- Infant swings



Time in a container can quickly add up throughout the day if a child rides in a car seat, falls asleep in a swing, sits in a high chair then stands in a baby walker or other such equipment. Switching from one container to the next reduces the amount of time and ability for a baby to kick, turn their head side-to-side, wiggle and move as a baby is supposed to do in order to develop the needed strength and coordination to learn new skills such as rolling over, sitting up, crawling and walking.

While many of these products make parents feel the baby is working on these skills by standing in an activity center or sitting in a floor seat, containers actually prevent children from sitting or standing in correct alignment and result in an inability to activate important muscles. Equipment can hinder the development of skills and place inappropriate stress on developing bones and joints - placing the child at risk for other injuries.

These issues mean that children who use containers may actually take longer to develop skills such as sitting, standing and walking. When a child is already at risk for developmental delays due to prematurity, Down syndrome, or other medical concerns, overuse of equipment can result in even greater impact and delays for the baby.

Container Baby Syndrome may be identified in a child when issues arise including:

- Delays achieving expected motor milestones such as rolling, sitting or standing
- Flat spots on the head due to lack of movement known as plagiocephaly
- Tightness in the neck from keeping the head turned or tilted to one side known as torticollis

Additionally, some of these equipment options may be unsafe for children resulting in falls or other injuries. The American Academy of Pediatrics has called for a ban on the manufacture and sale of infant walkers in the United States due to concerns for children's safety while using this equipment.

To allow a baby to develop appropriately and safely, children should follow safe sleep practices sleeping alone, on their backs, in a crib, in a non-smoking home, but then enjoy as much awake, play time on their tummy during the day as possible.

Use of equipment is critical with a car seat when traveling in the car and helpful for a few minutes total during the day to allow a parent to perform tasks that are unsafe with baby, such as cooking at a hot stove. Speaking with a pediatrician regarding any concerns for Container Baby Syndrome will ensure your child develops safely and appropriately. Physical therapists may also be able to help with these concerns and improve problems from Container Baby Syndrome through stretches, activities for strengthening, and assisting with achieving motor milestones.

Supporting Your Child's Social-Emotional Development



Strong Social-Emotional Skills are Essential for Success in Life

Social-emotional development is how children learn to understand who they are, what they feel, and how to interact with others. It is a crucial foundation for lifelong well-being and success.



Children develop social-emotional skills by learning to:

- Form and sustain positive relationships with family, caregivers, and peers.
- Experience, manage, and express emotions in a healthy way.
- Explore and engage confidently with their environment.

Social-Emotional Development Affects ALL Other Areas of Growth

- Communication & Language – SE growth helps children express thoughts, feelings, and needs.
- Cognitive & Thinking Skills – Emotionally secure children learn better and solve problems more easily.
- Motor & Physical Development – A child's confidence and emotions impact their willingness to explore and play.

This is why Developmental Delays in social-emotional development often show up in a child's words, behaviors, actions, and thoughts.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Strong SE skills support lifelong mental health.
- Small steps lead to big growth—skills build over time.
- It's never too late to strengthen SE foundations.
- Too much screen time can slow SE development.
- Practicing SE skills helps prevent future risky behaviors.
- Like muscles, SE skills grow stronger with practice.

Help Me Grow
Early Intervention

Infant & Early Childhood
Mental Health Consultation

Supporting your Child's Social-Emotional Growth



Model Positive Behavior

Show kindness, patience, and respect.

Name Emotions Together

Use books, pictures, and daily moments.



Encourage Play

Helps kids share, take turns and solve problems.

Keep Things Predictable

Routines help children feel safe and secure.

Offer Choices

Small decisions build confidence and independence.



When You're Unsure, We're Here to Help

If your child is struggling with:

- Big emotions that are hard to manage
- Trouble calming without help
- Struggles with friendships or social connection
- Difficulty with transitions or changes in routine
- Avoids new people or experiences
- Limited eye contact, facial expressions, or engagement

Reach out to the Greene County's Help Me Grow Early Intervention Team or the Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Team for guidance, tools, and strategies to help your child thrive.

Help Me Grow
Early Intervention

Infant & Early Childhood
Mental Health Consultation



MARCH 2026 POSITIVE PARENTING

IN PERSON

March 17th at 11:30 am

Beavercreek Library
3618 Dayton Xenia Rd.
Beavercreek, Ohio



VIRTUAL

March 19th at 12:30 pm

Scan QR code for
Zoom Link

SCAN QR CODE FOR FULL SCHEDULE

Learn about ways you can bring out the best in your children with simple, practical, and positive tips from the Early Childhood Mental Health Team.
No registration required!



- Each month has a different topic.
- Flexible! Pick the session that fits best with your schedule.
- Virtual or in person.
- Short 30 minute sessions.

