



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

EI Adventure Map

2023, 3rd Quarter

www.greenedd.org

Leadership Way

Dear Greene County Families,

“A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer’s wave goodbye.” Fall is upon us, and with that brings a busy time of year, especially for those with children in school. Our Early Intervention team has had a busy summer and are looking forward to fall! We are most eager for cooler weather, fall festivals and all things pumpkin in the coming months!

We would like to happily introduce our two newest Early Intervention team members. Please join us in welcoming, Kora Combs and Nicole Martin, as new Developmental Specialists! Kora joins us from providing in home care for families in Bellbrook, many of which had developmental needs. She is very passionate about Early Intervention due to prior experience with our program with one of her own children! Kora shared with us that EI helped her own family so much that she wants to help families have the same impact throughout Greene County. Kora joins us with a willingness and eagerness to learn and grow as a Developmental Specialist. Nicole joins us from being a toddler teacher and assistant director in a local daycare, in addition, to several years of experience in the ABA (Applied Behavioral Analysis) field, and a behavioral specialist. She shared with us Early Intervention has become a passion because she noticed while focusing specifically on behavior, many root causes for behaviors were derived from children’s developmental needs. Nicole joins us with behavioral knowledge and a passion and willingness to learn and grow as a Developmental Specialist. We are very excited to have them join our team and soon working with more families in our program!

With Gratitude,

Jennifer Frey, Early Childhood Program Director

&

Andrea Geiger, Early Childhood Program Manager



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:

November, 10 Veteran's Day
November, 23 & 24 Thanksgiving Holiday

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 office, and are available during typical business hours (8am-4pm Monday through Friday).

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, The Ohio State School for the Blind, 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.

Resource Rd.

- For additional support and information on motor, sensory or communication development visit 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—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
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/greencountydd/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/greencodd1>

Announcement Ave.

Building Personal Networks

Ohio Family to Family is sponsoring a two-part workshop for families and caregivers of children and youth with special health care needs. There are two opportunities to participate in the Autumn, September 26 and October 10. Participants must attend both sessions.

You can learn more and register here:

Autumn group: <https://link.zixcentral.com/u/5ab424de/EmBpiGIX7hGs2UQGh3soMg?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eventbrite.com%2Fe%2Fbuilding-personal-networks-for-families-tickets-609743548367>

Contact Marion

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>

Playdough

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

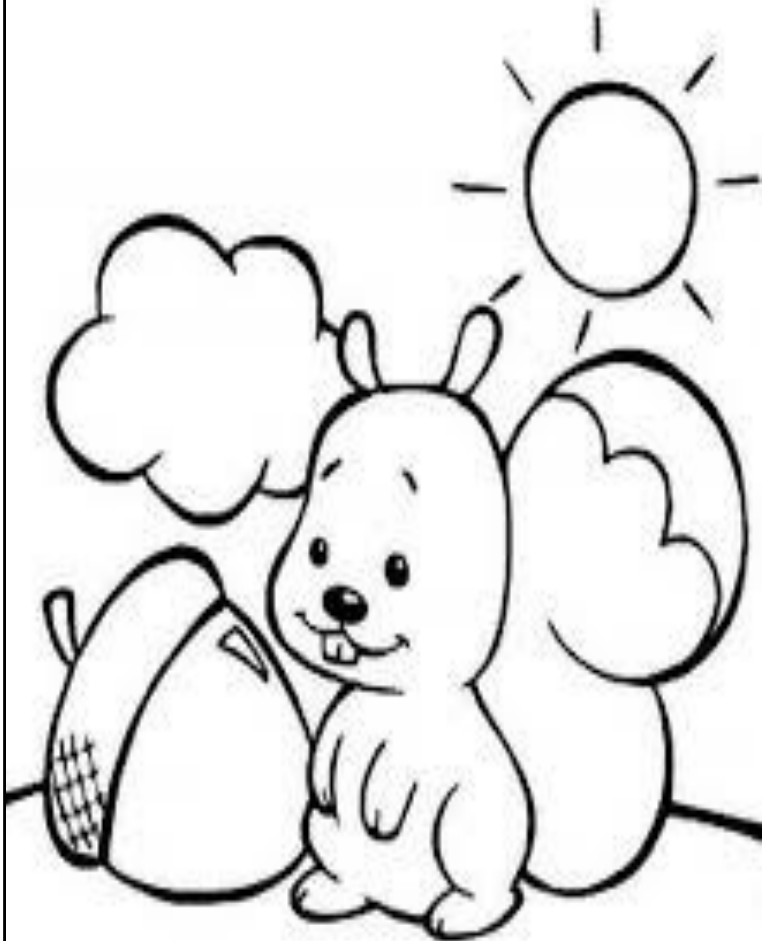
Ingredients:

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!





LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

WHY PLAY?

- Play is how children learn new skills.
- Play builds the brain and helps form important neural connections.
- Play skills are the foundation for all other developmental skills including language, physical development, and problem-solving.

FOUR GUIDELINES FOR PLAY

F Floor

F Follow their lead

F Face-to-face

F Facilitate turn-taking

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLAY SKILLS



EXPLORATORY PLAY

Plays by using their senses and moving their body.
Ex: reaching for toys, mouthing toys, shaking, and banging



RELATIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL PLAY

RELATIONAL PLAY: Combines objects in play.
Ex: drum and sticks, spoon and bowl, hammer and pegs



FUNCTIONAL PLAY: Uses objects for their intended purpose.
Ex: rolls a ball, stacks blocks, hugs a baby doll



SYMBOLIC PLAY

Uses objects to represent unrelated items in play.
Ex: blocks are food, broom is a horse



ROLE PLAY

Takes on a character or pretends to be another person.
Ex: pretending to be mommy, superman, a dinosaur

linguistic mapping



USE YOUR CHILD'S NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION CUES TO
MODEL LANGUAGE FOR THEM IN CONTEXT USING THEIR VOICE

1. POINTING AND GRUNTING TO
GET (CRACKERS)



"CRACKERS", "I'M HUNGRY", "CRACKERS PLEASE", OR "I WANT CRACKERS"

2. REACHING UP OR GRABBING AT
YOUR CLOTHES



"UP", "I WANT UP", "PICK ME UP", OR "UP MOMMY"

3. PULLING YOUR HAND TO BRING
YOU SOMEWHERE



"COME ON", "LET'S GO MOMMY", "FOLLOW ME", OR "COME OVER HERE"

4. BRINGING YOU A TOY THAT
REQUIRES HELP



"HELP", "HELP ME", "OPEN IT PLEASE", OR "I NEED HELP"

5. DIVING TOWARD THE FLOOR
TO GET DOWN



"DOWN", "GET DOWN", "I WANT DOWN MOMMY", OR "WALK PLEASE"

GETTING READY FOR FIRST WORDS

DEVELOP SKILLS IN THESE FIVE AREAS TO
PROMOTE SUCCESS WITH SPOKEN LANGUAGE



Social Motivation

Children need to be engaged and interested in order to learn. Follow their lead and build off of their interests. Notice the ways they are trying to communicate and respond accordingly. Imitate the actions and sounds they produce in play to get them to notice you and take interest in you.



Play Skills

Play includes how a child interacts with both the people and objects in their environment. Teaching children how to use objects in play helps them develop conceptual knowledge in order to start making connections about the meaning of words. Additionally, playing in a way that bounces the interaction back and forth creates a foundation for understanding the reciprocal nature of communication.



Intentional Communication

Early communication skills include coordinated eye gaze, vocalizations, and gestures. Children need to understand the power of communication through practice with these earlier forms in order to develop spoken communication.



Language Comprehension

Children must understand words before they are able to use them. Talk, read, and sing to your child frequently to help them start making connections about the meanings of words. Talk about the things they want and what catches their attention. Use a sing-songy voice and model a combination of single words and short phrases.



Imitation of Actions and Sounds

Children learn to imitate actions in play and simple sounds (raspberries, animal sounds, vehicle noises, and exclamations like "eck!") before they are able to imitate spoken words. Sing nursery songs and encourage your child to do the hand motions with you. Try pairing actions in play with silly sounds and see if they'll copy you.

PLAY IDEAS *for emerging communicators*

Communication starts with connection! People games and movement play are great ways to build social interest and connect with a child. This engagement and connection creates a foundation for communication skills to grow. These types of play also have many embedded opportunities for working on other important skills including communicative intent (in the form of eye gaze and gestures), understanding words, and building imitation skills.



PEOPLE GAMES

.....

Peek-a-Boo, Pat-A-Cake, So Big, This Little Piggy

.....

Ring Around the Rosie or bounce them and sing, "Coming Around the Mountain"

.....

Count down and "blast off" as you lift them up
OR do *1-2-3-toss-ups*

.....

Play hide and find using a blanket or scarf



MOVEMENT PLAY

.....

Chase and gotcha!
Ready set GO... STOP!

.....

Act out a song
Ex: The Goldfish Song
by Laurie Berkner

.....

Swinging, sliding, climbing, jumping, crawling through a tunnel

.....

Pillow fights, crash into a pillow, (gentle) tackles

EXCLAMATIONS!

These words and sounds are fun to practice, easy to imitate, and pack a lot of communicative power.



TIPS FOR TEACHING THESE WORDS

Tip #1

Say the words with emphasis!

Tip #2

Pair an action with the word.

Tip #3

Make it silly and fun.

COMMUNICATION TEMPTATIONS

TRY THESE IDEAS TO CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOUR CHILD TO COMMUNICATE AND SAY WORDS!

1

MAKE ITEMS INACCESSIBLE

EX: PUT FAVORITE ITEMS HIGH
ON A SHELF WHERE THEY CAN'T
REACH OR PUT THEM IN A
CONTAINER THEY CAN'T OPEN.

2

CREATE A SILLY PROBLEM

EX: GIVE YOUR CHILD
YOGURT, BUT NO SPOON OR
PUT THEM IN THE BATH TUB
WITH NO WATER.

3

DO SOMETHING UNEXPECTED

EX: PUT YOUR CHILD'S HAT ON
YOUR HEAD, DRINK FROM
THEIR CUP, OR PAUSE IN THE
MIDDLE OF A SINGING A SONG.

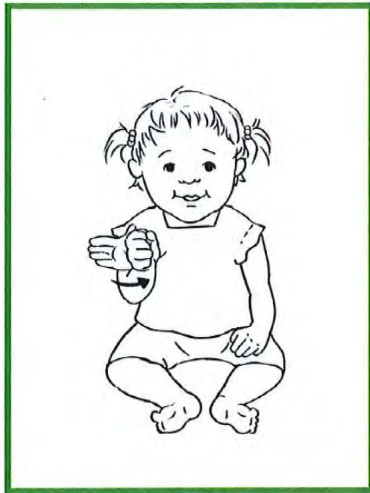
4

OFFER TWO CHOICES

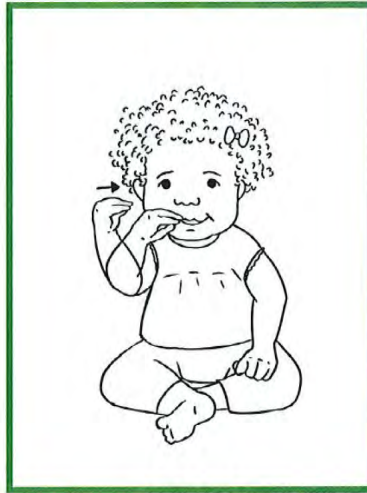
EX: GIVE THEM A CHOICE FOR
WHAT TO EAT, WHICH
PAJAMAS TO WEAR, OR WHICH
BOOK TO READ.

my first signs

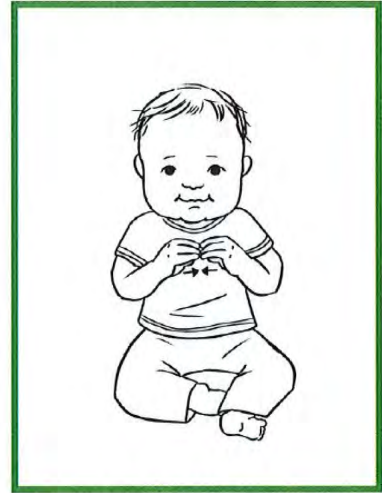
ASL SIGNS TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATION SKILLS



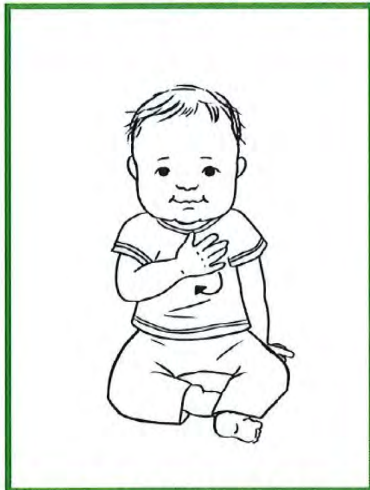
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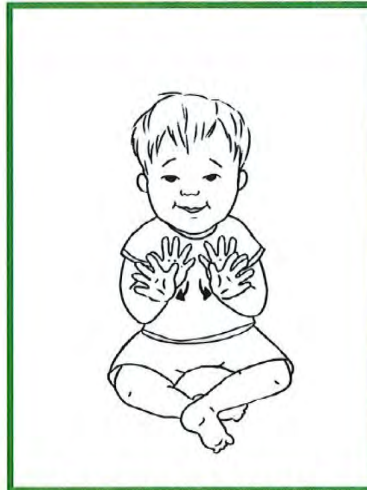
EAT



MORE



PLEASE



ALL DONE



HELP

The Practical Baby Sign Handbook

features over 50 practical baby signs with teaching tips, the research to back it up, and the exact steps to follow to introduce baby sign with your child.

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