



JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH
2023

Help Me Grow Geauga County Early Intervention Newsletter



Serving Geauga County Children Birth To Age 3 With Developmental Disabilities
Services are provided by the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

There is No Need to Wait and See!

You know your child best. If you have concerns that your child has a delay/disability or know someone who has concerns, call us! There is no need to "wait and see."

Early Intervention (EI) works with families with children birth to age 3 who have developmental disabilities so that they have the best possible start in life. EI professionals work with you and your child to identify strengths and needs and address concerns as early as possible with services right where you live, play, and spend your day.

**ANYONE CAN MAKE A REFERRAL AND THE
PROCESS IS SIMPLE. REFER YOUR CHILD TODAY.**

To make a referral:

1. Visit www.ohioearlyintervention.org to complete the process online.
2. Call us at 1-800-755-4769

Connect with us:



[@GeaugaDD](https://www.facebook.com/GeaugaDD)



[@GeaugaDD](https://www.instagram.com/GeaugaDD)

Visit our website for more information on services provided by the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities:
www.geaugadd.org

What's Happening?

- **Movin' with Music** (*in-person*) - for more information or to register, **please contact Ms. Carol:**
ccolombo@geaugadd.org
- **Mini Music** (*in-person*) - for more information or to register, **please contact Ms. Carol:**
ccolombo@geaugadd.org
- **Movin' with Music** (*virtual*) - Every Wednesday live at 9:30 am on our Facebook page: [@GeaugaDD](https://www.facebook.com/GeaugaDD)
- **Swimming** - There are currently two time slots available every Wednesday, for more information or to register, call/text Brenda Powell: (440) 688-5848
- **Fun Fridays with Friends** - Be on the lookout on social media & in your email for more information on when these will be offered!
- **Night to Shine** - We look forward to celebrating your child at our annual Night to Shine event! Please be on the lookout in your email for more information!

Welcome New Staff

We would like to introduce you to your newest Developmental Specialist, Patricia (Trish) Heredos. Trish joined the EI team in October 2022 as our new Developmental Specialist. She comes to us from a classroom environment. In the most recent years she has worked with Kindergarten and Preschool aged students. She is looking forward to working with your family!

FINE MOTOR MILESTONES

Once babies discover their hands and start to figure out how they work a world of learning awaits!

Newborn - 2 months

- has a strong grasp
- opens/closes fists
- brings hands to or near mouth
- arms stretch out & hands open
- scratches fingers along blanket/clothing
- looks toward outstretched hands

10-12 months

- grasps with thumb & 2 fingers
- pincer grasp develops
- picks up cereal/small objects with thumb & index finger
- imitates tool use
- uses hands to push, pull, squeeze & rotate
- removes socks
- stacks blocks (may not balance)

3-5 months

- holds toys when placed in hand
- uses arms to purposely swing a toy
- brings hands to mouth consistently
- pushes up onto elbows/forearms when on tummy

12-24 months

- self feeds using hands or utensils
- points with index finger
- completes simple form shape puzzles
- brings hands together to midline
- scribbles on paper
- holds crayon with fist hand
- stacks 2-6 blocks

6 months

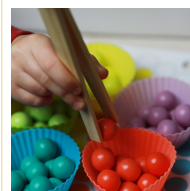
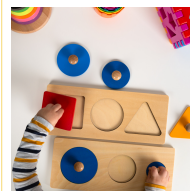
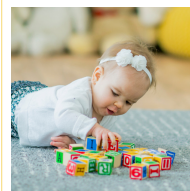
- purposeful reach using vision to guide movement
- transfers hands to hand
- finger feeds large foods
- shakes/bangs toys
- leans on hand(s) to support seated position

2-3 years

- pushes, winds, slides to activate toys
- self feeds with utensils & open cup (some spillage)
- screws/unscrews lids
- strings several large beads
- if modeled copies: vertical/horizontal lines & circles
- holds crayon with thumb & fingers
- stacks 6-8 block towers
- begins to follow black designs
- uses scissors to snip paper
- turns single pages in books

7-9 months

- plays using arms
- index finger use to "poke"
- raking cereal with fingers to grasp
- purposeful grasp/release of objects into containers
- grasp on thumb side of hand



Karla Faso, MS, OTR/L

Occupational Therapist

Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities



TIPS FOR READING TO YOUR TODDLER

- Use puppets, finger plays (like "itsy Bitsy Spider"), or props while you read
- Encourage your toddler to clap or sing while you read sing-song books
- Talk about the pictures - point to items and name them. Ask your child to name them with you & offer praise when he/she is correct
- Try to have at least one reading time each day

Happy Reading!



Ashley Bruno, M.A., CCC-SLP

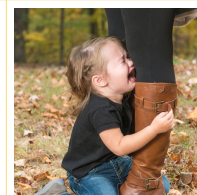
Speech & Language Pathologist

Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES FOR DEFUSING MELTDOWNS

Since the holidays are both exciting yet sometimes stressful, here are some de-escalation techniques for defusing meltdowns:

- Avoid yelling to be heard over a screaming child
- Validate feelings, not actions
- Don't try to reason with a toddler having a tantrum
- Be aware of your body language
- Get on your child's level
- Use distractions and redirect
- Take a movement break
- Planned ignoring/silence
- Acknowledge your child's right to refusal
- Calming visuals/deep breathing



Patricia Heredos, DS

Developmental Specialist

Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Polly Meil, DS

Developmental Specialist

Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

HALLOWEEN & COOKIES WITH SANTA



Congratulations to the Educational Service Center Preschool for taking home this years trophy! Their jungle theme won the hearts of parents & clients this year for best decorations!



EI WEEKLY SWIMMING

AT THE
pool



Early Intervention Support Team



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Brenda Powell
Lifeguard
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bpowell@geaugadd.org

Early Childhood Subcommittee Meeting

The Early Childhood Subcommittee meeting will be held Thursday, January 5, 2023 via Zoom at 10:00 AM (Meeting ID: 891 5950 9705 Password: 222843 - [Meeting Link](#)).

The ECS is an advisory group of Geauga Family First Council. Membership is comprised of various community agencies, representatives, and parents who partner together to share ideas, experiences, and expertise in the area of early childhood development. The focus of the group is to gather input regarding direction, planning & success for the Geauga County Help Me Grow program. We encourage Help Me Grow parents to join us to share feedback about services they are receiving and/or gaps in services they might be experiencing. We value your opinions, and your time is valuable to us and will send you a \$25 gift card for attending the meeting. Please contact your Service Coordinator if you have any questions.



Parent Resources

PARENT'S RIGHTS IN EARLY INTERVENTION & SYSTEM OF PAYMENT

To file a complaint about your child's early intervention services please contact:

The Ohio Department of DD EI via:

Phone: 614.466.6879

Email: ei@dodd.ohio.gov

Mail: Ohio Dept. of DD

Early Intervention

30 East Broad Street, 12th Fl.

Columbus, OH 43215

[Click Here to View Your Rights as a Parent!](#)



Payment choices for additional Early Intervention (EI) services determined by child's IFSP. Additional EI services may include Audiology, assistive technology devices or other needed services to meet IFSP outcomes as determined by your child's EI team. For more information contact your child's Service Coordinator.

[Click Here to Learn about System of Payment!](#)

For more information on community resources please visit our website: www.geaugadd.org