



OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER  
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

## Concerns or Questions Contact us today

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](http://www.ohioearlyintervention.org) to complete the process online.
2. Call us at 1-800-755-4769

## Connect with us:



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



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Visit our website for more information on services provided by the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities:  
[www.geaugadd.org](http://www.geaugadd.org)

## What's Happening?

- **Movin' with Music** is for kids ages 18 months to 3 years and is available on Mondays or Thursdays, at 9, 10 or 11.
- **Mini Music** is for babies ages 6 months to 17 months and is available on Tuesdays at 9, 10 or 11.  
Music classes are held at the Metzenbaum Center, contact Ms. Carol at [ccolombo@geaugadd.org](mailto:ccolombo@geaugadd.org) or (440) 688-5815 to register.
- **Movin' with Music** goes live every Wednesday at 9:30 AM on our Facebook page: [@GeaugaDD](https://www.facebook.com/GeaugaDD) and posts to Instagram afterwards.
- **Swimming** - Wednesdays from 10-11 or 11-12 to register, contact Brenda Powell at (440) 688-5846 or [bpowell@geaugadd.org](mailto:bpowell@geaugadd.org)
- **Fun Fridays with Friends** - For families with kids ages 3 years and under and their siblings. Parents are responsible for their child during these events. Come play on Friday October 13th in the small gym at the Metzenbaum Center from 9:30-11:30. Contact [ccolombo@geaugadd.org](mailto:ccolombo@geaugadd.org) for questions.



## Music at the Libraries



**Movin with Music** will be offered at:  
**Thompson** library on Friday, November 10th  
contact the Thompson library at (440) 298-3831 to register.  
**Burton** library on Friday, November 17th  
Contact the Burton library at (440) 834-4466 to register.

# WELCOME TO HOLLAND

BY EMILY PERL KINGSLEY

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability- to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this...



*When you're going to have a baby,  
it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip- to Italy.*

*You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum, The Michelangelo David, The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.*

*After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."*

*"Holland?!" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."*

*But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay. The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.*

*So you must go out and buy new guide books. Any you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.*

*It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around...and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills... and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.*

*But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy...and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I planned."*

*And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away....because the loss of that dream is a very, very, significant loss.*

*But...if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things....  
about Holland.*



**SEPTEMBER 8TH WAS INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY!**

**HERE ARE SOME FREE RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT:**



**Dolly Parton's Imagination library of Ohio– <https://imaginationlibrary.com/>**



**OCALI lending library–[https://www.ocali.org/project/lending\\_library](https://www.ocali.org/project/lending_library)**



**[https://www.helpmegrow.org/ASQ Help me Grow milestones and screening](https://www.helpmegrow.org/ASQ_Help_me_Grow_milestones_and_screening)**



**<https://www.mytoddlertalks.com/resources-2> – book ideas &resources**



**<https://geaugalibrary.net/library-of-things/>**

**Early Reader Backpacks and Lit boxes which come with a book and a toy relating to the story.**



**Parenting While Rising to Child Developmental Challenges:  
A Five-Episode Virtual Conversation Series for Families**

This free, five-episode virtual conversation series offers a warm and inviting opportunity to connect with other parents and families of children with differences or challenges. Through a series of facilitated conversations with parents, we will explore the unique and common experiences of loving and raising children whose developmental process and journey is delayed or atypical. We will cover topics near and dear to the hearts and experiences of families as we all learn from each other about how to best support and advocate for our children, and the whole family.

Series will run on five Mondays from September 25 through December 18, from 3-4 PM. All episodes are one hour with live Spanish translation and closed captioning available.

**<https://www.brazeltontouchpoints.org/family-talk/child-developmental-challenges/>**

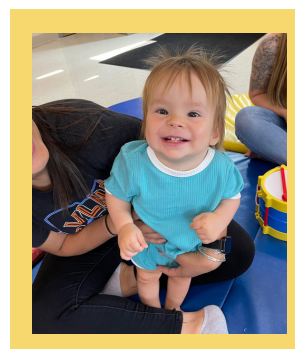




## Early Childhood Subcommittee Meeting

The Early Childhood Subcommittee meeting will be held Thursday, October 5, 2023 via Zoom at 10:00 AM (Meeting ID: 89476131246 Password: 299843 - [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](mailto: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](http://www.geaugadd.org)