



JULY- AUGUST- SEPTEMBER  
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



@GeaugaDD

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.  
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 post to Instagram afterwards.
- **Swimming** - Wednesdays from 10-11 or 11-12 to register, contact Brenda Powell at (440) 688-5846
- **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 April 28th in the small gym at the Metzenbaum Center from 9-11:30. Contact [ccolombo@geaugadd](mailto:ccolombo@geaugadd.org) for questions.



## Music at the Libraries



**Movin with Music** will be offered at:  
**Thompson library** on Friday July 21st and September 22nd.  
contact the Thompson library at (440) 298-3831 to register.  
**Burton library** on Friday July 14th  
(440) 834-4466 to register.  
**Middlefield library** on Friday Sept 22nd  
(440) 632-1961 to register.

NEW

# PLAYGROUND

The Metzenbaum Center has a brand-new playground that is accessible and fun for everyone! The new playground is always open to the public from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. Our previous playground was nearly 30 years old, was rusty in many spots, and didn't have much for kids who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. In early 2021, the Geauga County Board of DD recognized the need for something new, so they authorized a committee to start the design process. Later in 2021 all the aging, cracked sidewalks were replaced with a wide, smooth walking path that encircles the whole playground area. We also added a shade pavilion with picnic tables. In 2022, designs for the new playground were finalized, with a focus on creating LOTS of options for everyone: sensory items, musical instruments, accessible areas, and traditional climbing/sliding options. We even have an accessible merry go ground! Supply chain problems pushed construction back to the end of 2022, with the finishing touches happening in the spring of 2023.

If you haven't seen it yet, come check it out!

Dave Carlson  
Director of Business Operations  
Gauga County Board of DD



*Tune of: ( If you're happy and you know it)*

If you're ready for the playground clap your hands.

If you're ready for the playground clap your hands.

If you're ready to play, clap your hands and shout.

**HOORAY!**

If you're ready for the playground clap your hands.

# Playground



## Some Benefits of Outdoor Play for Toddlers

By: Polly Meil, DS

- Improved flexibility and balance
- Opportunities to learn how to control movement
- Development of overall motor skills
- Eye hand coordination
- Taking turns and learning patience
- Boosts self confidence and self esteem
- Interacting with a broader range of age groups
- Developing social and language skills
- Promoting better sleep patterns





# Early Intervention Support Team



**Tim Kehres**  
Early Intervention  
Contract Manager  
440.285.1201  
tim.kehres@jfs.ohio.gov



**Meredith Myers,**  
EIS, EISC  
Early Intervention  
Manager  
(440) 729-9406 x1530  
mmyers@geaugadd.org



**Brittany D'Ettorre,**  
DS, EISC  
Early Intervention  
Supervisor  
(440) 729-9406 x1531  
bdettorre@geaugadd.org



**Karla Faso, MS,**  
OTR/L  
Occupational Therapist  
(440) 729-9406 x1306  
kfaso@geaugadd.org



**Ashley Bruno,**  
M.A., CCC-SLP  
Speech & Language  
Pathologist  
(440) 729-9406 x1318  
abruno@geaugadd.org



**Rochelle Payne,**  
LSW, EISC  
Early Intervention  
Service Coordinator  
(440) 729-9406 x1535  
rpayne@geaugadd.org



**Rebecca Johnston,**  
EISC  
Early Intervention  
Service Coordinator  
(440) 729-9406 x1524  
rjohnston@geaugadd.org



**Danielle Skrabec,**  
PT, MPT  
Physical Therapist  
(440) 729-9406 x1307  
dskrabec@geaugadd.org



**Patricia Heredos,**  
DS  
Developmental  
Specialist  
(440) 729-9406 x1304  
pheredos@geaugadd.org



**Welcome To**  
**Ashley Hunter**  
EISC  
Service Coordinator  
(440) 729-9406 x1536  
agubanyar@geaugadd.org



**Welcome To**  
**Kelly Kolberg,**  
EISC  
Service Coordinator  
(440) 729-9406 x1509  
kkolberg@geaugadd.org



**Polly Meil, DS**  
Developmental  
Specialist  
(440) 729-9406 x1305  
pmeil@geaugadd.org



**Brenda Powell**  
Lifeguard  
(440) 729-9406 x1310  
bpowell@geaugadd.org

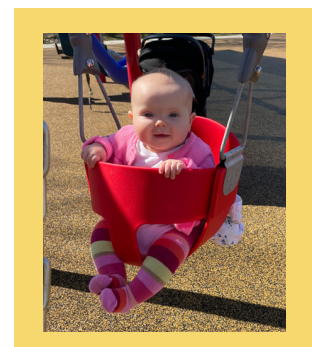


**Carol Colombo, MT**  
Registered Music  
Therapist  
(440) 729-9406 x1321  
ccolombo@geaugadd.org

## Early Childhood Subcommittee Meeting

The Early Childhood Subcommittee meeting will be held Thursday, July 6, 2023 via Zoom at 10:00 AM (Meeting ID: 86046738514 Password: 279957 - [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)