

January
February
March

Help Me Grow Geauga County Early Intervention Metzenbaum Newsletter

2025

Serving Geauga County children from birth to age 3 with
Developmental Disabilities. Helping people Live, Learn, and Earn in our community

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

www.geaugadd.org



@GeaugaDD



@GeaugaDD

Are you Concerned?

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. To make a referral: Visit www.ohioearlyintervention.org to complete the process online or call us at 1-800-755-GROW



METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board
Of Developmental Disabilities



Cookies with Santa 2024



WHAT ARE FAMILIES SAYING ABOUT EARLY INTERVENTION?



The Early intervention program at the Geauga County Board of DD has been a wonderful resource not only for both of my children but also my family since the moment we learned about the program. The program has grown and evolved to meet the needs of the community over the years—from online programs during COVID to multiple day/time options for early learning and play classes post-COVID. The building is fun, clean, safe and conveniently located, making it easy to build into our weekly routine. The playground is awesome and accessible to all ages and abilities—definitely one of our favorite in the area.
Tabitha Mensch

Raylin has relaxed into the structure of Miss Carol's music class and her shyness in class has significantly decreased. Outside of class she is more verbal and often shares her thoughts through singing. The handouts help to share the songs from class with her parents. Raylin is always delighted with her artwork! Having weekly interactions with my granddaughter in this fun and educational environment—PRICELESS! Raylin's Grammers'



My daughter Savannah, has had the privilege of being involved in the early intervention program. She had an IFSP created at 18 months for a speech delay. With the help of the programs her speech and confidence have steadily improved. We've especially enjoyed music class with Ms. Carol. She always brings so much joy, positivity, and energy to class and we look forward to going each week.
Dana Gent



I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the incredible impact you've had on our family. Trish, Ashley & Carol have been amazing and we are so grateful for all the support and guidance they've provided. My two-year old son, Weston, absolutely loves seeing all of you, and it's been such a joy to witness his growth. The strategies and techniques you've used, along with the way you've connected with him have made a huge difference, particularly in helping him learn how to talk.
Heather Manchen





Types of Vision Loss

by Deb Tyukodi, M. Ed., COMS, Early Intervention Specialist from the Cleveland Sight Center
For more information: clevelandsightcenter.org

The Visual System consists of the EYE (which collects information), the OPTIC NERVE (which carries information), and the BRAIN (which interprets information). All parts must all work together for good vision to occur.

Make a referral or questions at 216-658-4685
registration@clevelandsightcenter.org

Behaviors to watch for:

- Squinting, closing, or covering of one eye when looking at objects ✓
- Excessive tearing when not crying ✓
- Excessive blinking, rubbing, pushing and/or poking of the eyes ✓
- Avoidance of or sensitivity to bright lights ✓
- Does not watch or follow an object with eyes by 3 months ✓

Watching out for your child's vision

Most eye problems fall into one or more of five categories used to describe visual loss.

- 1. Loss of visual acuity:** the child does not see as clearly as they should and images are not sharp.
- 2. Loss of visual field:** the area the child can see, above, below, and to the sides of their eyes is limited when holding their head and eyes still.
- 3. Oculomotor problems (muscles around the eye):** the child has difficulty with moving their eyes when they are looking at, following, and/or scanning objects with their eyes.
- 4. Reduced contrast sensitivity:** the child is unable to see the relative difference between the lightness and darkness of objects, (something like looking at a faded photograph)
- 5. Problems with visual processing:** the child's brain is having difficulty making sense out of what they are seeing (Cortical Visual Impairments).

Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) is the leading cause of visual impairments in children in the United States. It is brain based and not in the eye itself. Your child sees what we see but they cannot interpret it. Most of the time the eye exam is normal or the exam does not explain their lack of functional vision.



Families enjoying
our 4th annual
Halloween Event



The Early Childhood Subcommittee meeting will be held Thursday January 9, 2025 via zoom at 10:00 AM. Meeting ID 851 1826 3884 Passcode 807277 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 Rights



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!](#)