



**Department of
Children & Youth**

Early Intervention Forum

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

Sponsored by OACB in collaboration with DCY Early Intervention

Join OACB and DCY, along with Part C providers, partners, and families throughout Ohio to hear the latest topics and research on best practices for Early Intervention!

All Part C Providers and families are welcome to attend!

The forum is divided into four sessions – please register for each session you wish to attend. Registration links are below each session. There is no cost for families and for those who do not want to earn continuing education credits. Those who want CPDUs should register via MemberConnect.

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Primitive Reflexes and Rhythmic Movement Training 101

Discover how primitive reflexes influence early brain and motor development in infants and toddlers, and why understanding these reflexes is essential for supporting growth and learning. This session will introduce Rhythmic Movement Training International (RMTI), exploring its origins, underlying principles, and the ways it can be used to integrate reflex patterns and build a foundation for later skills. Presenters will share how Stark County's Early Intervention team has incorporated RMTI into their practices, highlighting real-world examples, implementation strategies, and outcomes for children and families. Participants will leave with practical insights to apply in their own work supporting young children's development.

Presenter: Sylvia Kiefer, Consultant (Rhythmic Movement)

[**Register for Session 1**](#)

For questions, please contact Erica Wallace (ewallace@oacbddd.org).

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10:45 - 11:45 a.m. A Trauma Responsive Lens — Foundational Training

Learn how early trauma affects brain development, behavior, and parent-child relationships. Sarah Buffie, Founding Director of Soul Bird Consulting, will share practical, trauma-informed strategies to build trust, foster resilience, and strengthen family engagement in Early Intervention. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of trauma's impact and actionable tools to create safe, supportive environments for children and caregivers.

Presenter: Sarah Buffie, Founding Director and Trauma Responsive Care Trainer (Soul Bird Consulting).

[Register for Session 2](#)

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. From Connection to Collaboration: Strengthening IFSPs Through Relationship-Based Practices

Early Intervention is built on relationships. This session will explore how forming and fostering trust with families during the first 45 days after a child's referral is critical to creating a meaningful and effective Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Participants will learn how these early connections lay the groundwork for long-term engagement and shape the family's overall experience with EI.

Presenter: Erin Hale, Early Intervention Monitoring Consultant, and Karen Kincaid, Early Intervention Program Consultant (DCY).

[Register for Session 3](#)

1:45 - 2:45 p.m. Stronger Together: How Teaming Boosts Efficiency in Early Intervention

Effective teamwork can be a game-changer in Early Intervention. This session will explore how shared expertise, pooled resources, mutual support, and collective problem-solving not only improve efficiency but also turn challenges into opportunities. Participants will learn how a strong, collaborative approach leads to better outcomes for children and families — and builds a foundation for lasting success.

Presenter: Lindsey Jay, Early Intervention Program Consultant, and Karen Kincaid, Early Intervention Program Consultant (DCY).

[Register for Session 4](#)

For questions, please contact Erica Wallace (ewallace@oacbddd.org).