Department of Children & Youth

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM UPDATES

September 15, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

We recently wrapped up our annual family questionnaire, and quantitative results and open-ended responses have been distributed to each county. I am thrilled to share that the statewide response rate to the questionnaire was over 29% for the third year in a row, after several years of substantial increases. Thank you to the local county programs for all your work in engaging families in this process and, more importantly, the meaningful work you do to support these families day in and day out.

I look forward to reviewing the family questionnaire responses every year. It is incredibly important to hear directly from the families we serve to determine what is working well in the program and where we can make improvements. Further, these responses are a great reminder of the substantial impact the EI program has on these children and families during their time in EI and long after they exit.

I have shared a handful of quotes below (with identifying information removed) from responses we received to this year's questionnaire that particularly highlight the incredible impact your work makes on the children and families we serve.

> *"When talking with anyone involved in Early Intervention, you can immediately sense how deeply they care about what they do and how passionate they are about helping parents understand the resources and support that can help their child thrive. It can be incredibly disheartening to compare your child to others and focus on the ways they may seem behind, but this program helps shift the focus toward progress, growth, and everything they have already overcome. Early Intervention truly helps set children and families up for success by celebrating each step of the journey."*

> *"The biggest impact has been learning strategies that we can use in our daily routines to support our child's development. The encouragement and guidance from our Early Intervention team have helped us recognize progress and better understand our child's strengths and challenges. Having support early on has made us feel more prepared to advocate for our child's needs."*

> *"The biggest impact of early intervention on our family has been the support and guidance we have received from our therapists. They have helped us understand our child's needs and taught us activities and strategies to encourage communication, learning, and development at home. They have also helped us connect with valuable community resources, including assistance with diapers, educational toys, and other services our child needs. Their encouragement and support have given us confidence and made a positive difference in our child's progress and in our family's daily life."*

"Early Intervention has worked very well for our family because of the individualized support, communication, and guidance provided throughout the process. The therapists were patient, encouraging, and gave us practical strategies to use during everyday routines at home. We appreciated how family centered the services were and how they focused on helping our child build communication skills in a natural and supportive way. We have seen meaningful progress in our child's speech and confidence, and we are very grateful for the support our family received."

"Enrolling my son in Early Intervention has been an incredible blessing for our family because it allowed him to receive therapy services both at home and at daycare. What has worked especially well has been the support and guidance provided not only to my son, but to me as a parent. The staff truly listened to my concerns and fears regarding my son's developmental challenges and helped me feel supported throughout the process. They provided valuable recommendations for a daycare that would best fit his specific needs, suggested local resources and activities to help support his development, and guided me through the IEP transition process so he would continue receiving support after aging out of EI. They also helped me learn new strategies and ways of approaching things at home that better support his growth and development. Overall, EI has made a tremendous positive impact on both my son and our entire family."

This update includes additional information about the open-ended responses to the 2026 Family Questionnaire, and is packed full of other information, especially in the Resources and Training Opportunities section. Be sure to read to the end about all these important updates!

Please feel free to reach out to me at Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov with ideas, questions, or suggestions any time.

PROGRAM UPDATES

2026 EI Family Questionnaire Open-Ended Responses

DCY sent files to each Contract Manager and FCFC Coordinator on September 3 that included the responses provided to the open-ended questions, #14, 15, 16, and the "Additional Comments" section, of the 2026 EI Family Questionnaire. Responses were de-identified if the respondent did not provide consent to share comments exactly as written. If the parent consented to share responses as written, they were not edited in any way. These files containing parent responses will not be posted on the EI website and are not intended to be shared or posted publicly. Please contact Brier Gallihugh at Brier.Gallihugh@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov with any questions.

State Fiscal Year 2026 County Annual Data

DCY sent State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26) county annual summary reports to EI Contract Managers and Family and Children First (FCFC) Coordinators September 8. These data summaries contain information about referral sources, children served, eligibility reasons, services on initial IFSPs, and exit reasons. The statewide SFY26 data summary will be available on the EI website in the coming weeks. The county summaries are not posted publicly. Please contact Brier Gallihugh (Brier.Gallihugh@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov) with any questions.

August EI Breakfast Club

We held our August EI Breakfast Club call on August 31. This call featured a presentation about infant safe sleep. Register for future calls and access the recording and slides from the August call and all previous calls on the EI Breakfast Club page of the EI website.

September Early Identification, Inclusion & Home Visiting Children and Youth Advisory Council Subcommittee Meeting

As a reminder, the September Early Identification, Inclusion & Home Visiting Children and Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) Subcommittee meeting was moved from September 14 to September 21 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This meeting will be held virtually, with no in-person option. See below for information on joining the meeting. This information is also available on the EI website.

Microsoft Teams meeting

- **Join:** https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/26156357735157?p=Onv8wMop5OxZ95i6oK
- **Meeting ID:** 261 563 577 351 57
- **Passcode:** Di7sL2DC

Dial in by phone

- **Call:** +1 614-721-2972
- **Phone conference** ID: 927 276 172#

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Transfer of EI Coursework from DODD MyLearning to the Ohio Professional Registry

By the end of the 2026 calendar year, all EI coursework currently housed in DODD MyLearning will be transferred to the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR). After the courses are transferred to the OPR, they will no longer be accessible in DODD MyLearning. See the information below regarding what you can expect and action steps you can take now to prepare for this transfer.

What you can expect:

- Regular guidance, reminders, and updates in the EI Program Updates
- Reminders on DODD MyLearning course pages regarding deadlines to enroll in and complete coursework in DODD MyLearning (to be announced at a later date)
- Guidance documents outlining how to locate, enroll in, and complete the EI courses in the OPR
- Direct support by contacting eitraining@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

Action steps you can take now to prepare:

- If you have not already done so, create an OPR profile.
- Plan to complete any EI coursework you have started in MyLearning by early December. Exact deadlines will be communicated at a later date.

We anticipate having all EI courses transferred to the OPR by mid-December 2026. Please monitor the EI Program Updates for reminders, updates, and additional information. If you have questions, please contact eitraining@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.

2027 Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Conference

The 26th annual Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) conference is being held March 22, 2027 to March 24, 2027 in Bellevue, Washington. This conference brings together a wide variety of attendees including those who work in state Early Hearing Detection and Intervention programs; assist in EHDI efforts on the federal level; provide screening, diagnostic and early intervention support at the state/ local level to young children with hearing loss and their families; champion Medical Home activities within each state; are parents of children with hearing loss; or are deaf or hard-of-hearing adults who are helping to expand opportunities for young children with hearing loss. The goal of the annual EHDI Conference is to enhance the implementation of comprehensive state-based Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs. See the conference website for additional information and to register for the conference.

Battelle Developmental Inventory and Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development Training Dates

Additional trainings dates for Battelle Developmental Inventory and Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development have been announced. See this flyer for additional information, including registration instructions and deadlines. Available dates for each tool are as follows:

Battelle Developmental Inventory

- August 6, 2026
- November 5, 2026
- January 25, 2027
- May 6, 2027

Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development

- September 9, 2026
- February 3, 2027
- May 13, 2027

Reminder: Principles of Service Coordination Test-Out Option for Transition Credential Holders

Individuals with **EISC Transition** and **EISC Supervisor Transition** credentials are eligible to complete the Test-Out option for Principles of Service Coordination (POSC) Modules 1, 2, 4, and 5. These Test-Out options can be found here. Learners are required to take Modules 3, 6, and 7 in their entirety, as there are no Test-Out options for these modules.

To access the Test-Out exams:

1. Use the enrollment code (if applicable) to enroll in the Test-Out exam. If an enrollment code is required, it can be found on the certificate of the preceding module in the series or on the MyLearning transcript in the "Other" column next to the preceding module.
2. Upload the required documents (copy of **Transition** credential and certificate of completion for preceding module or test-out exam) into the "Pre-requisite" section. **Note: Individuals who do not have a credential marked as "Transition" are not eligible to complete the Test-Out exams.**
3. Once these documents are approved by the administrator (up to 5 business days), complete the exam. If learners fail the exam, they must complete the corresponding module in its entirety.

Please note that CPDUs are not awarded for completing the Test-Out Exams. If you have questions, please contact eitraining@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.