

Early Intervention Program Updates #2411

May 31, 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

We have cleared a 20% response rate for the 2024 EI family questionnaire and are closing in on last year's 26.19% response rate. We will need responses from approximately 700 more families to match last year's response rate. We provided interim response rates to counties earlier this week. Counties that are currently at less than 26% should be engaging in efforts to engage with families to complete the questionnaire prior to its June 14 due date. Thank you!

I always invite your feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me at nathan.dedino@childrenand youth.ohio.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

PROGRAM UPDATES

SFY24 Transition Baseline

The EI monitoring team extracted data for the Transition monitoring baseline analysis on April 23 and sent data inquiries to all participating counties on May 7. Responses were due back May 22. The monitoring team is currently reviewing submitted information and will be contacting applicable counties with any needed clarifications.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Newborn Behavioral Observation (NBO) Training Follow-Up

We are seeking feedback from those who have completed the 15 hour NBO training. Please complete the NBO Training follow up survey through the link below. This survey asks questions about your NBO training and how it has affected your current practice. It should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete, and it will help inform the development of future NBO trainings and provide information for quality improvement. It also tells us more about the value of the NBO and its implementation.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZQG7YJW>

Columbus Speech and Hearing Deafblind Zoo Fun Day

Columbus Speech and Hearing and the Columbus Zoo are hosting a Deafblind Zoo Fun Day on Sunday, June 9, from 9:00am-6:00pm at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. This event will feature American Sign Language (ASL) and tactile learning opportunities about the animals.

You can register and purchase tickets here:

<https://columbusspeech.org/csh-deafblind-zoo-fun-day/>

Nationwide Children's Hospital Family ECHO Series: New Sessions

Family ECHO is a virtual learning platform tailored specifically for families and caregivers raising children with autism and developmental disabilities. Family ECHO equips participants with the tools they need to navigate the challenges of caring for children with developmental disabilities. You can view ECHO sessions and register here:

<https://view.e.nationwidechildrens.org/?qs=e0fb00aa5b11ae92ab5c2c05de8673219c5e6e5eb3ac8885f9f0f3e53304abe88528c383acbb2f1799322990f5ea8cafe338f513423b7560eb0e1b8c279e6d062baf96aef93d298db8da08e0d8cd791a81141649f2190f33>

Call for Input: The Role of Special Instruction in Early Intervention Position Statement Revision

The “Role of Special Instruction in Early Intervention” position statement has been revised and is available for field review. This revision highlights the expertise, roles, and recommended qualifications of providers of special instruction, the educational service in early intervention. If you provide this special instruction; supervise, collaborate with, or train those who do; or have received the service as a family member, please review the revised statement here:

<https://divisionearlychildhood.egnyte.com/dl/RvsrodIfNR>

After you have reviewed the revised statement, please share your feedback by completing the survey using the link below. The survey will close on June 6.

<https://form.jotform.com/241336455242048>

Devereux Center for Resilient Children Free Webinar Calendar 2024-2025

Please use the link below to view the free webinars being offered by Devereux Center for Resilient Children. For information about CPDUs, please contact Anni Monks (Rhannon.Monks@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov).

<https://centerforresilientchildren.org/freewebinars-20242025/>

Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development SFY25 Training Dates

Please use the link below to view the upcoming dates for the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development trainings occurring during the remainder of SFY24 and SFY25:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/search?q=bayley&tab=trainings&time=1>

Ohio EI Rule Revision Webinars

Please use the link below to register for the upcoming Ohio EI Rule Revision Webinars occurring in June 2024. These webinars are required for Contract Managers, EI service coordinators and supervisors. If you are unable to attend a live training, you will be able to view the recordings of the webinars on MyLearning one to two weeks after the live event, no later than July 4.

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/370>

GENERAL SUPERVISION HIGHLIGHT: FAMILY-DIRECTED ASSESSMENT

Each child determined eligible for Early Intervention must have a family-directed assessment (FDA) conducted, with consent, within 45-days of the referral to EI. Under 34 CFR 303.321(c)(2) and OAC 5123-10-02(I)(5), the FDA must identify information about families' resources, priorities, and concerns, and the services and supports needed to enhance families' capacities. Information is gathered through a process that must include the family's description of their priorities, concerns, and resources related to enhancing their child's development, as well as their overall well-being. As part of this process, each county must utilize an FDA tool to gather required information.

The EI service coordinator is responsible for ensuring that each family is offered an FDA, including providing prior written notice (PWN) and obtaining the parent's informed consent for completing the FDA using form EI-03 ("Prior Written Notice and Consent for the Family-Directed Assessment") until June 30. Beginning July 1 informed consent for the FDA will be obtained using form EI-02.

In addition to providing PWN and meeting the timeline described above, there are additional FDA requirements that must be met:

- Voluntary on the part of each family member participating in the assessment
- Based on information obtained through an FDA tool and also through an interview with family members who consent to participate in the assessment
- Conducted by qualified personnel or an early intervention service coordinator (as defined by the lead agency in (5123-10-02 Appendix B)
- Unless clearly not feasible to do so, be conducted in the native language of the family members being assessed
- Conducted in settings and times that are convenient for the parent
- Conducted initially and at least annually prior to, but not more than 90 calendar days before, the annual IFSP due date

Guidance/resources

OAC 5123-10-02(E)

IFSP Guidance Document

Ways to monitor

- Review the FDA tool and documentation on forms EI-03 (until June 30) and EI-04, and forms EI-02 and EI-04 beginning July 1
- Case notes with FDA information and date
- Data entered on the assessments page in the EI Data System (EIDS)
- PWN and consent process.

Documentation for verification purposes

- Form EI-03 (until June 30), EI-02 (beginning July 1)
- Section 3C of EI-04 (until June 30), section 3 of EI-04 (beginning July 1)
- Assessment page in EIDS
- Case notes

Tips

- Ensure that the EI service coordinator can effectively communicate the importance of the FDA in determining the family's concerns, priorities, and resources related to caring for and enhancing their child's development, all of which will inform the potential results of early intervention services.
- Provide the family with the opportunity to ask questions prior to consenting to the FDA and respect each family member's decision to provide as much or as little information as they are comfortable with
- If a parent changes their mind regarding consent to the FDA, ensure that it is documented in case notes and on the applicable consent form (EI-03 until June 30, EI-02 July 1)
- Remember that an annual FDA is not required if the annual IFSP is due within 90 days of the child's third birthday; however, timelines and requirements in the IFSP must be met.