

Newsletter

Fall 2023

Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Team's Positive Parenting Support Expands

The Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) team at Greene ESC is making waves with their Positive Parenting program, an interactive psychoeducation and parenting support group that has seen a remarkable surge in participation over the past few months.

Offered four times a month through a virtual platform, Positive Parenting has become a beacon of support for families in Greene County. The expert consultants at Greene ESC's IECMH team bring their wealth of knowledge to the program, utilizing evidence-based curricula, including the renowned Triple P (Positive Parenting Program). [Triple P Ohio website link: <https://www.triplep-parenting.net/oh-ukn/triple-p/>]

The Positive Parenting program, which is open access for all families in Greene County, has witnessed an impressive milestone in its third year. Over the first three months of this year, participation has tripled, and the numbers continue to grow each month.

Carrie Taylor, BSW, MEd, ECMH-C, OIMPH-III, & Certified Triple P Trainer, has been instrumental in adapting the positive parenting supports from the way they were offered before the pandemic hit in 2020. "In designing the Positive Parenting program our goal was to make it easy and accessible for parents. We do not require pre-registration. We encourage parents to ask questions, however if they want to just listen that's fine also. We ask for the parents to type into the chat the ages of their children to gear our conversation towards the ages they have. We take parents' input on the end of

session surveys to base our next session topics on challenges they are having with their children. We truly want to meet parents where they are and present them with information that's easy to understand, easy to incorporate into their daily lives, and encourages connection with their children."

The broadening reach of the program is particularly noteworthy, with an increasing number of fathers and grandparents actively attending and participating in the sessions. This shift reflects the program's ability to cater to the diverse needs of families and provide valuable support to different generations.

Funding for the Positive Parenting program comes from a collaborative effort, with support from Greene, Clark & Madison Mental Health & Recovery Board, United Way of Greater Dayton and Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services. This financial backing ensures that the program remains accessible to families in the region, contributing to its widespread success.

The Positive Parenting initiative by the IECMH team not only underscores the growing need for parenting support but also highlights the positive impact of evidence-based programs in fostering healthy family dynamics. As the virtual program continues to thrive, it demonstrates the commitment of the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health team in supporting families and promoting positive parenting practices in Greene County in innovative ways.

Autism Advocate Speaks at GCESC in Support of Families

GCESC hosted staff, caregivers and parents for a presentation by Kim Clairy, an Autistic Occupational Therapist, who provided valuable information and experiential insight for educators and families. During the hands-on training, Kim shared her personal experiences and professional expertise as she taught the basics about sensory processing challenges and how these challenges or differences affect learning and daily functioning. Attendees learned to identify possible sensory challenges and evidenced based-strategies to address them; such as, creating sensory friendly environments and how to individualize sensory supports for students.



Kim Clairy

“It was a very dynamic session and I feel like I learned a lot,” said one staff member. “It is good to hear from people who have a first-hand account of what it is like to live with autism. It was very interesting and gave me a fresh perspective on some of the students that I work with.”

According to Clairy, the brain’s job is to keep us alive, to keep us safe from harm. Life is a sensory experience; everything we do is related to our senses. How the brain processes sensory information coming from inside and

outside of the body influences how safe one feels in their mind, body, environment, and interactions with others. Sensory processing challenges and/or differences can lead to a perpetual state of fight, flight, or freeze without adequate support. This can affect every aspect of functioning. Research indicates up to 90% of autistic individuals experience differences and/or challenges with sensory processing. It is essential for those who work with autistic individuals to understand sensory processing and how to support those with sensory differences and challenges.

Additionally, Clairy discussed the importance of teaching interoception; which is the sense that tells us how we know what we feel and what to do about it (am I hungry, angry, hurt, etc?). Several examples on how teaching interoception were shared.



Staff participated in an interactive demonstration to experience sensory overload first-hand.

Several GCESC staff members provided complimentary childcare during the evening parent event that included engaging gross and fine motor activities and free play opportunities.

“This was an awesome presentation,” said a parent of an autistic child. “Her honesty, feedback and the live examples were excellent and very helpful.”

Teacher Shares Affinity for Elf Culture in Adaptive Physical Education

Dana Meredith, an Adaptive Physical Education teacher who has worked at GCESC for 32 years, continues to create and implement fun and engaging Adaptive PE classes for students of all ages.

Recently, Dana took his Greeneview Preschool classes to “Elf School” where they completed a variety of gross motor and team building activities in order earn an honorary Elf status at the end of the lesson. Dana is a talented and dedicated teacher who truly loves working with students of all ages and abilities.



Breaking new Ground: Greene County ESC Leads the Way in Early Mental Health Intervention for Student Success

In a pioneering effort launched in 2015 prioritizing the well-being of its youngest students, the Greene County Educational Service Center Mental Health Services (GCESC-MHS) is continuing to set the standard in the realm of early intervention in Ohio. Focused on providing timely and comprehensive support to children with emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs, the program is rapidly responding to ensure the stabilization and inclusion of every child in childcare, preschool, and early education settings.

The GCESC-MHS Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Team (ECMHC) Team adopts a unique, child-centered approach, delivering developmentally appropriate mental health services that extend beyond the classroom.

This holistic strategy aims to support the whole child, addressing their needs at school, at home, and in their childcare



ECMHC Staff

environments. The result: the right interventions at the right time.

So far this year the ECMHC Team has witnessed resounding success following a significant upsurge in referrals and requests for assistance. More children with behavioral challenges and dysregulated emotional issues in the classroom and struggling to “do school” are receiving the necessary interventions. These young students are being maintained and actively included in educational settings with the addition of ECMHC wrap-around supports, fostering a more inclusive community and a better start to school.

Crucially, this initiative is generating increased awareness about the impact of preschool expulsion, shedding light on the benefits of inclusion, and providing guidance on when to seek assistance. Expulsion has far-reaching consequences, affecting children, school districts, families, and the wider community. By addressing behavioral and mental health needs early on, GCESC-MHS is mitigating these impacts and building a foundation for success for every student.

The ECMHC program is a beacon of progress in mental health service delivery, illustrating the transformative

power of prioritizing mental health in education. The strong partnerships with community childcare centers, preschools, and schools underscore a collective commitment to ensuring every child's success, from the earliest stages of their educational journey.

Unlocking Student Potential: ECMHC Team's Transformative Impact on Local School Districts

Greene County school districts are experiencing a wave of positive transformation with the introduction of the ECMHC Team services provided by the GCESC Mental Health Services (GCESC-MHS). The benefits are multi-faceted, extending beyond individual student success to creating a healthier and more supportive learning environment for all involved. By addressing mental and behavioral health challenges early, school districts are witnessing improved classroom dynamics, enhanced teacher-student relationships, and increased overall academic engagement.

Preschool, kindergarten, and early elementary students often grapple with mental and behavioral health challenges due to various factors such as delayed social-emotional development, family dynamics, and exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). These challenges can significantly impact learning by creating barriers to effective communication, hindering social interactions, and diminishing a student's ability to focus on academic tasks. The ECMHC Team recognizes these hurdles and works collaboratively with educators, students, and families to provide tailored interventions that foster a positive and conducive learning environment.

What sets the ECMHC Team apart is its composition of highly specialized mental health clinicians, practitioners, and therapists acting as consultants. This diverse team brings a wealth of expertise, ensuring that the interventions provided are not only timely but also precisely tailored to the unique needs of each student. Having such a comprehensive team at the disposal of Greene County school districts allows for a nuanced and flexible approach to mental health support, contributing to a more holistic and effective educational system.

Greene County school districts can easily access ECMHC Team services either on-demand or through contracting for onsite services. This flexibility empowers educators to seek assistance precisely when needed,

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whether for a specific student or to address broader classroom dynamics. The team's availability reflects a commitment to supporting the well-being of both students and educators, reinforcing Greene County's dedication to providing a high-quality and inclusive education for every child.



Beaver Creek Preschool

Beaver Creek Public Preschool Marks 5 Years of Innovative Early Childhood Mental Health Services

Beaver Creek's public preschool, Beaver Creek Preschool, is marking a significant milestone as it celebrates five years of partnering with GCESC to provide cutting-edge Early Childhood Mental Health Services. This innovative initiative includes consultation, therapy, family engagement, and specialized training, all aimed at addressing the increasingly complex needs of the district's youngest learners.

The program, designed to give students the best possible educational outcomes by proactively addressing their mental health, has been crucial in helping these young learners "do school" successfully. By embedding mental health services within the educational framework, Beaver Creek Preschool has become a trailblazer in fostering a holistic approach to student well-being.

Beaver Creek Preschool's commitment to innovation extends beyond academic excellence, encompassing a holistic approach to meet the varied developmental, emotional, and behavioral needs of its young students. Recognizing the diverse backgrounds of its student body, including families with trauma exposure, military families, and those new to the community, the preschool has

implemented proactive measures to provide extra support early and often.

By fostering an inclusive environment that caters to the unique challenges these families may face, Beaver Creek Preschool aims to ensure that every child feels supported, understood, and empowered to thrive both academically and emotionally. This thoughtful approach reflects the preschool's dedication to creating a nurturing space where all children can flourish.

Beaver Creek Preschool Director, Kristine Montague, has been an advocate for the program since the early days. "Addressing students' social emotional needs and mental health needs is vitally important to their success at school," said Montague. "When students feel safe and connected to staff then they are ready to learn and grow. The support from ECMH our students, families and staff receive helps us all to meet the individual needs of each child within our program."

Montague's commitment to early childhood mental health services reflects the district's dedication to providing a comprehensive foundation for their youngest students.



Safe Place

Team-Based Approach Prioritizes Student & Staff Well-being for School

The ECMHC embedded at Beaver Creek Preschool offers powerful insights and supports to all the adults in the environment. Libby Wagner, BSW, M.Ed, OIMHP-III, ECMH-C, and Audrey Shirk Kessel, MSW, LSW, OIFP-II, ECMH-C, work collaboratively with the staff and families to address student needs.

"It has been a privilege working in tandem with the amazing staff, Director, and children at Beaver Creek Preschool Center. Everyone is truly aware and open to the importance of early childhood mental health interventions, the significance of language and relationships as well as trauma informed learning environments." said Libby Wagner.

Mental Health intervention and therapy is not something that solely exists in one space, rather, it's sprinkled throughout that child's life in every space the child occupies. True healing occurs in the

Continued from Page 4

environments and relationships the child is in. The preschool has worked diligently to ensure that all children, whether they have a trauma background or not, are seen and heard, and served so they can reach their full potential.

Grace Schoessow, MS, OIMHP-III, ECMHC, Director of the ECMH Program, emphasizes the impact of the program on the students. "By integrating consultation, therapy, family engagement, and specialized training, we're not just addressing problems as they arise; we're actively helping shape a positive environment for preschoolers to thrive emotionally developmentally and academically."

Beavercreek Preschool has implemented professional development sessions for Intervention Specialists, directors, and the elementary school behavioral team. These training sessions contribute to a shared understanding of effective intervention strategies.

In addition to classroom and child focused mental health interventions, the ECMHC team supports parent nights, fostering engagement with community parents and area childcare centers. This inclusive approach encourages a collaborative partnership between educators and families to create a supportive ecosystem for the children.

Workshops Offered Through Whole Child Design Series

TURNAROUND FOR CHILDREN

Whole-Child Design Series

After the past years of stress and disruption of the Covid pandemic, there is a lot of talk about social-emotional learning and whole-child approaches. And there are a lot of questions - *What does this actually mean? What do I need to do differently? How can I make this happen on top of everything else?* Turnaround for Children wants to help you find answers.

Turnaround's **Whole-Child Design Series (WCDS)** engages participants in four highly interactive sessions about the science of learning and development and whole-child design. With colleagues, you will explore new information, strategies, and tools, and apply what you learn to your role and context. By the end of the fourth session, you'll have concrete ideas about how to create positive learning experiences for your students to thrive.

About the Series

WCDS Structure:

Four 2-hour workshops covering:

1. The Science of Learning and Development - January 30, 11am-1pm
2. Developmental Relationships - February 27, 11am-1pm
3. Supportive Environments - April 23, 11am-1pm
4. Integrated Knowledge, Skill and Mindset Development - May 14, 11am-1pm

(See page 2 for more complete descriptions)

*Option to add consulting hours for additional support

WCDS Participants:

The series is designed for district and school staff, including principals, teachers, student support staff, expanded learning providers, coaches, department directors and more. Participants are encouraged to join in school or district teams in order to share learning and plans for implementation. **This series is grant funded and provided at no cost to participants.**

A Whole-Child Design Blueprint

The content of the four sessions is based on Turnaround for Children's **Blueprint for Whole Child Design** (see right). Each session will include science grounding, implications for practice, concrete tools and time for team discussions about application to your district's context.

Explore the [framework here](#).



WCDS Session Descriptions



SESSION 1: The Science of Learning and Development January 30, 11am-1pm

In this session, participants will understand how the brain develops, how it responds to stress, and what that means for teaching, learning and equity.



SESSION 2: Developmental Relationships February 13, 11am-1pm

This session will focus on the first and foundational component of Whole Child Design – Developmental Relationships. We will explore the science behind the human relationship and discover the power of positive developmental relationships as the "active ingredient" in any equitable learning environment. Participants will gather practical strategies for focusing on relationships.



SESSION 3: Supportive Environments April 23, 11am-1pm

In this session, participants will learn about the brain's natural inclination towards predictability and the power of inclusion and belonging. When environments are supportive and orderly, the brain is calmer and more focused, and students are more engaged in the learning process. Participants will gather strategies for creating environments that are supportive and inclusive of multiple backgrounds, cultures, and contexts so that all students can learn and thrive.



SESSION 4: Integrated Knowledge, Skills and Mindsets May 14, 11am-1pm

The science of learning and development shows us that learning isn't "academic" OR "social and emotional" – students become increasingly capable of complex skills through the integration of their cognitive, social, and emotional development. This session will explore the integrated development of skills and mindsets, focusing on how equitable learning environments support SE awareness and student voice. Participants will learn how co-regulation helps students strengthen the skills, mindsets, and habits to persevere in the face of challenges.

Participants Say:

In school year 2022, over 200 educators participated in the series.

98% of participants said they would **recommend** the series to their colleagues.

95% of WCDS participants felt the content of the series was **relevant** to their role and context.

"[Since the series] I have been integrating what I know about the brain and the impact of stress. I have also refocused my efforts to build relationships and to be the positive force on my site that students need."

- 2022 Participant

To register or for questions, email Lindsay Green - lgreen@greeneESC.org

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Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

LETRS *

Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling

Greene County ESC
360 E Enon Rd
Yellow Springs, OH 45387





JOIN THE WOSC LETRS COHORT

- 2 YEAR COMMITMENT
VOLUME 1 → 2023-2024
VOLUME 2 → 2024-2025
- 3 PART TRAINING MODEL
ONLINE MODULES,
READINGS INDEPENDENTLY,
IN PERSON SESSIONS, &
ADDITIONAL OFFICE HOURS
FOR SUPPORT

\$800 FOR 1 YEAR
All payments made to
Miami County ESC

DATES & TIMES ON 2ND PAGE

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For additional information, please contact Amber Dennis at amber.dennis@mcesc.org

Darke County ESC* Greene County ESC* Miami County ESC* Montgomery County ESC* Preble County ESC* Warren County ESC

LETRS *

Dates & Times

Unit 1	Part 1 (half day in person)	January 9	8:30 - 11:30am
	Office Hours for Consultation (virtual 1 hr each - no charge)	January 16 & January 23	Zoom 3:30 - 4:30pm
	Part 2 (half day in person)	February 6	12:30 - 3:30pm
Unit 2	Part 1 (half day in person)	February 13	8:30 - 11:30am
	Office Hours for Consultation (virtual 1 hr each - no charge)	February 20 & February 27	Zoom 3:30 - 4:30pm
	Part 2 (half day in person)	March 12	12:30 - 3:30pm
Unit 3	Part 1 (half day in person)	March 19	8:30 - 11:30am
	Office Hours for Consultation (virtual 1 hr each - no charge)	April 9 & April 16	Zoom 3:30 - 4:30pm
	Part 2 (half day in person)	April 23	12:30 - 3:30pm
Unit 4	Part 1 (half day in person)	April 30	8:30 - 11:30am
	Office Hours for Consultation (virtual 1 hr each - no charge)	May 14 & May 21	Zoom 3:30 - 4:30pm
	Part 2 (half day in person)	May 28	12:30 - 3:30pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For additional information, please contact Amber Dennis at amber.dennis@mcesc.org

Darke County ESC* Greene County ESC* Miami County ESC* Montgomery County ESC* Preble County ESC* Warren County ESC

LETRS *

Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling

Greene County ESC
360 E Enon Rd
Yellow Springs, OH 45387





JOIN THE WOSC LETRS EVENING COHORT

- 2 YEAR COMMITMENT
VOLUME 1 → 2023-2024
VOLUME 2 → 2024-2025
- 3 PART TRAINING MODEL
ONLINE MODULES,
READINGS INDEPENDENTLY,
IN PERSON SESSIONS, &
ADDITIONAL OFFICE HOURS
FOR SUPPORT

\$800 FOR 1 YEAR
All payments made to
Miami County ESC

DATES & TIMES ON 2ND PAGE

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For additional information, please contact Amber Dennis at amber.dennis@mcesc.org

Darke County ESC* Greene County ESC* Miami County ESC* Montgomery County ESC* Preble County ESC* Warren County ESC

LETRS *

Evening Dates & Times

Unit 1	Part 1 (half day in person)	February 1	3:00 - 6:00pm
	Remaining sessions in person or virtual option		
	Office Hours for Consultation (virtual 1 hr each - no charge)	February 8	Zoom 3:30 - 4:30pm
	Part 2 (half day in person or virtual)	February 22	3:00 - 6:00pm
Unit 2	Part 1 (half day in person or virtual)	March 7	3:00 - 6:00pm
	Office Hours for Consultation (virtual 1 hr each - no charge)	March 14 & March 21	Zoom 3:30 - 4:30pm
	Part 2 (half day in person or virtual)	April 4	3:00 - 6:00pm
Unit 3	Part 1 (half day in person or virtual)	April 18	3:00 - 6:00pm
	Office Hours for Consultation (virtual 1 hr each - no charge)	May 2	Zoom 3:30 - 4:30pm
	Part 2 (half day in person or virtual)	May 9	3:00 - 6:00pm
Unit 4	Part 1 (half day in person or virtual)	May 23	3:00 - 6:00pm
	Office Hours for Consultation (virtual 1 hr each - no charge)	May 30 & June 6	Zoom 3:30 - 4:30pm
	Part 2 (half day in person or virtual)	June 13	3:00 - 6:00pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For additional information, please contact Amber Dennis at amber.dennis@mcesc.org

Darke County ESC* Greene County ESC* Miami County ESC* Montgomery County ESC* Preble County ESC* Warren County ESC

SOLD A STORY COHORT

A DEEPER DIVE INTO THE "WHY" BEHIND THE SCIENCE OF READING AND HOW WE GOT SO FAR OFF TRACK

Participants will listen to the podcast *Sold a Story*, join in deep conversations, and explore a variety of additional resources and activities to support a deeper understanding of the shift to structured literacy.


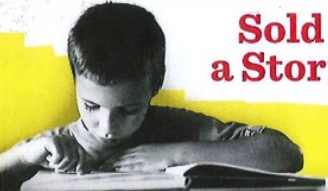
JANUARY 10, 2024 12:30PM-3:30PM
FEBRUARY 14, 2024 8:30AM - 11:30AM
MARCH 13, 2024 12:30PM-3:30PM
APRIL 10, 2024 8:30AM-11:30AM
MAY 8, 2024 12:30PM - 3:30PM
JUNE 5, 2024 8:30AM-11:30AM
JUNE 26, 2024 12:30PM-3:30PM

\$150 for any 3 sessions
 \$300 for all 7 sessions

All payments made to Miami County ESC

Greene County ESC
 360 E Enon Rd
 Yellow Springs, OH

REGISTER HERE

Sold a Story

For any questions, please contact Amber Dennis at amber.dennis@mcesc.org

DARKE COUNTY ESC* GREENE COUNTY ESC* MIAMI COUNTY ESC* MONTGOMERY COUNTY ESC*

HOW TO BE A ROCKSTAR PARA-PROFESSIONAL


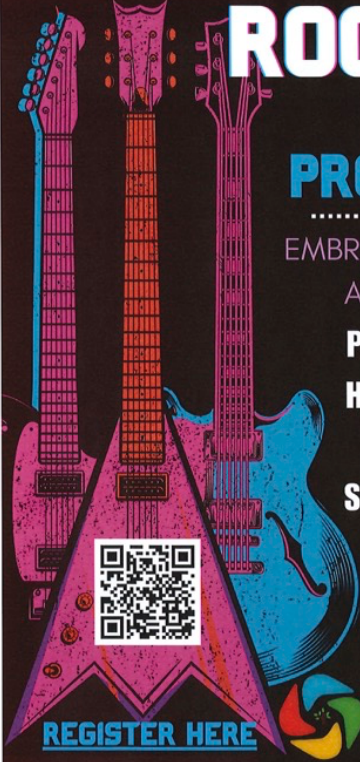
EMBRACING EXCELLENCE & AVOIDING PITFALLS

Para/Assistants 101: How to Best Support the Success of Students & Teachers

January 31
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Greene County ESC
 360 E Enon Rd
 Yellow Springs, OH 45387

REGISTER HERE





QUESTION? CONTACT AMBER.DENNIS@MCEC.ORG

DARKE COUNTY ESC* GREENE COUNTY ESC* MIAMI COUNTY ESC* MONTGOMERY COUNTY ESC* PHOENIX COUNTY ESC* WARREN COUNTY ESC*

Please join us online for a session on...

Positive Parenting



The Early Childhood Team at the Greene County ESC will facilitate virtual meetings to empower parents of children ages 0-10, through positive supportive networking. Each month new information will be presented to encourage us to reflect on communication with our children without blame or shame, but through the use of humor, support, and resource sharing. We will create a space for honest conversations about the challenges of raising children to help avoid burnout and build stronger relationships.



This month's topic: *How to Handle Sibling Dynamics and Conflict*

Tuesday, January 9th - 8:00pm-8:30pm
 Wednesday, January 10th - 1:00pm-1:30pm
 Tuesday, January 23rd - 8:00pm-8:30pm
 Wednesday, January 24th - 1:00pm-1:30pm

*Attend any of these sessions. The topic will stay the same, centering around social skills and emotional regulation in children. Questions from caregivers guide our discussion. Feel free to ask questions or just listen!

Register and join each meeting here:
<https://zoom.us/j/97049694203>

E-mail: ECMHTeam@greeneESC.org
 for more information or if you can't make a session but want to know more!

Reading Eggs

SAVE THE DATES!

Greene County ESC Reading Eggs Cohort Monthly Meetings

Meeting Times:

2:00-3:30 PM

1/25/24
 2/29/24
 4/25/24

***5/30/24 →**

12:00-1:30

End of Year Luncheon

Join us **in person**
 @ the Greene County ESC
 360 E Enon Road
 Yellow Springs, OH 45387
 to review Structured Literacy implementation strategies and the Reading Eggs program!



edmentum™

Administrators' Network: Science of Reading

Join regional administrators to discuss implementation of Science of Reading best practices; collaborate on next steps for literacy; and learn about how the Greene County ESC Instructional Support Service Team can help!

**SAVE THE DATES!
11:30-12:30
Virtual Zoom Network**

** Zoom link will be emailed after registration*

Please contact the GCESC
Instructional Support Service
Team with any questions

Dr. Amy Baldrige

abaldrige@greeneesc.org

Nicole Ferguson

nferguson@greeneesc.org

Kim Watkins

kwatkins@greeneesc.org

1/11/24

2/8/24

3/14/24

4/11/24

5/9/24

6/13/24

Use the QR Code to Register!

