

Newsletter

Spring 2024



GCESC Instructional Support Services Team Making Positive Impact Across Greene County

(ISS) department has been very busy this year responding to professional development requests, creating trainings to develop teachers and leaders' knowledge of literacy and dyslexia, and enrolling in several trainings themselves in an effort to continue expanding their knowledge to best support school, classroom, and student success across Greene County.

The ISS department is comprised of two coordinators (Nicole Ferguson, Elementary Literacy specialist; and Kim Watkins, Adolescent Literacy Specialist), and one director (Amy Baldridge); together, these three have delivered more than 77 trainings to teachers, administrators, literacy coaches, and school districts in Greene and Montgomery Counties, grades K-12. Recently, Nicole presented at Sinclair's annual Preschool Promise, which expanded their reach to include preschool, as well!

The Greene County Reading Eggs Elementary Literacy Cohort was established by the GCESC Instructional

Support Services department aimed at cultivating a collaborative network of literacy-focused educators in the county who would benefit from a simple, practical, high-quality literacy enhancement tool to elevate learning for all learners, but especially struggling readers.



The Reading Eggs online program is a digital learning platform originally developed in 2008 and founded on the tenets of the Science of Reading. This platform was first piloted by GCESC in partnership with Yellow Springs Schools, and following a very successful pilot, was extended to ALL districts in Greene County, free of charge for their elementary staff and students.

The following school districts joined this cohort and provided their staff and primary/elementary students with access to this engaging and fun Reading program: Bellbrook-Sugarcreek, Cedar Cliff, Fairborn, Xenia, and Yellow Springs School Districts. The ISS department leads monthly meetings with the Reading Eggs El. Literacy Cohort members where nuances are shared related to program features; strategies for maximizing effectiveness are provided; details surrounding reporting and data are given;

The Greene County ESC Instructional Support Services and work related to assessment and student reading growth are shared. Cohort members regularly express appreciation that this platform is available to parents away from school to continue the learning and reinforcement at home.

Reading Eggs is a decorated, research-backed program that also provides strong targeted support for English Language Learners that is tremendously beneficial, given the increase in the number of children requiring such support.

The multiple badges below reflect several awards, certifications, seals of approval & endorsements earned by the Reading Eggs online program:

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Access to this literacy-rich platform will continue for staff and students FREE OF CHARGE through 2024 - 2025 school year through the GCESC Extended Learning Grant.

The Greene County ESC ISS department has begun exploring instructional support development in the area of math, as NAEP data and state testing results continue to

reveal significant losses across the nation, state, and region, post-COVID. At a time when the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce is strongly promoting an emphasis on STEM/STEAM careers, these significant gaps in math achievement will need to be



addressed or the STEM/STEAM objectives will be delayed or significantly reduced.

The inception of the ISS Department was made possible with the ESSER Extended Learning Grant support and is continuing beyond the grant through local service contract agreements. Districts needing PD/training or benefitting from embedded coaching, literacy, or elementary math support, should contact Dr. Amy Baldridge at (937) 767-6142 for more information.

Greene County ESC Instructional Support Service Team

The GCESC is dedicated to offering districts up-to-date and relevant information that will assist them in their delivery of instruction to students and offer best practice in assessment of students' learning.

The ISS team has diverse expertise. Please feel free to contact us for any assistance with curriculum, instruction, and assessment issues or for resources beneficial to your school district.

Literacy Focused Credentials

- LETRS Local Facilitator
- LETRS Early Childhood Local Facilitator
- Ohio Dyslexia K-3/18 Hour Course Facilitator
- Ohio Dyslexia 4-12/18 Hour Course Facilitator
- Ohio's Science of Reading Course Facilitator
- Literacy Improvement Pathway K-3 and 4-12 Facilitator
- Acadience Mentor
- Wilson Fundations
- Wilson Just Words
- The Writing Revolution



<u>www.greeneesc.org</u> (937) 767- 6142; Ext. 1158 360 E Enon Rd Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Data Analysis Credentials

- Regional Data Leads
- EVAAS/Value-Added
- Central Reporting System
- State Data Credential
- Restart Readiness
- NWEA MAP trainer
- High Quality Instructional Material (HQIM)
- High Quality Student Data (HQSD)

Please reach out for any tailored PD requests!



Greene County ESC Instructional Support Services

> Greene County ESC Instructional Support Service Team

> > Dr. Amy Baldridge Director of Instructional Support Services and Alternative Education abaldridge@greeneesc.org

Mrs. Nicole Ferguson Instructional Support Coordinator and Elementary Literacy Specialist nferguson@greeneesc.org

Ms. Kim Watkins Instructional Support Coordinator and Adolescent Literacy Specialist <u>kwatkins@greeneesc.org</u>

INC Focuses on Important Daily Living Tasks

The Intensive Needs Classroom (INC) Workshop and Living Skills rooms are spaces used to help students develop and practice important daily living tasks.

In the Living Skills rooms, students may focus on "home-based" skills, such as folding and putting away clothing, setting the table, and vacuuming the carpet or rugs. Students may also work on leisure skills, which are often overlooked for students with profound special needs.

The workshop houses "INC Industries," where the students work to create products that are then sold in the community. This experience reinforces the Ohio

Extended Standards and the scope and sequence of their learning path, as well as developing practical vocational skills.

Examples of items for sale include fire starter bricks, key chains, gift bags and plants; additionally, they perform other work-based tasks, such as shredding documents, or



assembling projects, including the GCESC Holiday Fiesta centerpieces.

The Middle School INC students are currently learning content around the season of spring and current news of interest. An important news topic this month is Black History Month, which aligns with the national designation in the month of February. Using the *News2You* adapted newspaper, students learn about famous African-American musicians, scientists, and inventors who have made important contributions throughout U.S. history. In addition, the students are preparing for a new season by practicing seasonal vocabulary and learning to look

for key changes in the environment and the world around them that occur with the onset of spring.

Throughout the building, the high school students can be found working on various vocational skills such as



collecting recycling and trash, cleaning door knobs, collecting and completing laundry, vacuuming, sweeping, cleaning tables, and many more vocational jobs with steps to review and follow. This work supports and strengthens their independence; it also helps them to practice reading the directions for the steps outlined in each vocational job they are assigned throughout the year. It isn't just about clicking the box to finish a vocational job but following the directions to execute the job fully and properly to completion.

Outdoor Advantage Program Serves Wide Range of Students

The Outdoor Advantage Program (OA) is an alternative educational program designed to meet the needs of junior high students in Greene County (grades 6-8) who are struggling to be successful in

traditional settings.

The students enrolled in OA can range from those who have been identified as academically "gifted," through those needing remedial, lower grade-level interventions and focused tutoring due to gaps in their education. The range is broad, and the needs are diverse but

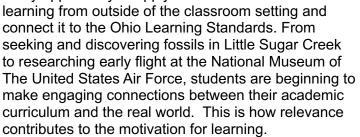


all benefit from the hands-on, experiential learning opportunities that OA offers.

Academically, during the first semester of 2023 through the ExactPath assessment program, students showed an average growth of 100 points from their baseline scores, which is 66 points higher than the

national average of their peers over the same time period. The program staff has worked hard to achieve these outcomes on behalf of the students and their learning.

The OA program utilizes every opportunity to apply





Academy Curriculum Stresses Academic Success

The students enrolled in the Academy of Greene County have been putting in a tremendous amount of work on their academics. With the help of an amazing team working towards common goals, the students have made progress in the areas of credit recovery gains, and growth towards several behavioral goals. Some of the Academy students are completing the

credits they need to graduate and some are caught up enough to be able to return to their home school districts!

Our Mission Moment has been realized in our recent

Real Money Real World event. This simulation provides students the "do" in active hands-on experiential learning. This program

allows students to make simulated lifestyle and budgetary choices similar to those adults have to face on a daily basis. The Ohio State University Extension Agency partners, the GCESC Transition Coordinator, and

the Academy instructional team worked in coordination to make this authentic learning opportunity a success. Several local partners and community members also contributed their



time and expertise to come and volunteer to help make this a meaningful and impactful event for the Academy students.

GCESC Building Undergoing Improvement Project

The GCESC is having tuckpoint masonry repairs and some additional exterior work done on the main office and Learning Center building in Yellow Springs. Work is expected to be completed in early summer 2024. Quality Masonry is doing the exterior work while VSWC is the architectural firm.





GCESC BAC Adds Opportunities for Districts

Overview:

The Greene Co. Business Advisory Council (BAC) is comprised of K-12 educational representatives from each of the Greene Co. school districts, various Greene County community support agencies, post-secondary institutional partners, and several business and industries from a variety of career fields who work collaboratively to anticipate and support local workforce development needs, and the increasing educational demands of students and staff in Greene County schools.

BAC Mission Statement:

"The Greene County Advisory Council, in partnership with Greene County schools and businesses, will assist in the assessment of workforce needs and employability skills for student success in the regional economy."

BAC Responsibilities:

- To advise the districts on changes in the economy and job market and the area in which future jobs are most likely to be available.
- To advocate for the employment skills most critical to business and industry and the development of curriculum to teach these skills.
- To aid and support districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations, and educators.

Highlights and Featured Achievements that align with The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) Statewide Objectives:

- There are four constituent membership components that make up the GCESC BAC team:
 - 1) Pre-K 12
 - 2) Post-Secondary
 - 3) Workforce
 - Community Resources and Support



Each of these 4 elements collectively completes a community "puzzle" that collaboratively addresses the mission of supporting workforce development needs and student success.

- GCESC has continued to fund and provide professional development for the Pathful Explore career platform for all school districts in the county. The focus for the usage of the program was 6th - 9th graders with the age group/seats being determined by each local district. Dr. Amy Baldridge, BAC Co-Chair, is coordinating the usage and assisting with securing student and teacher access. This career platform has grown 35% in the number of active student users since the first year of its roll-out to the local districts two years ago. This workforce exploration/development resource was provided free of charge through the GCESC Extended Learning Grant, and thanks to special pricing arrangement will remain grant-funded for districts through to spring of 2025.
- The Strategic Ohio Council for HIgher Education (SOCHE) has earned an intermediary grant from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) for paid student internships (aimed at high school juniors and senior students). President Dr. Cassie Barlow is an active BAC member and routinely provides updates and guidance re: steps for schools to follow to support their students' participation in these employment/career development opportunities.
- A new Career Connections Coordinator * position was established for enhancing career exploration and was funded through the GCESC Extended Learning Grant. This new coordinator role was intended to directly connect local students needing practical career development or employment support with the Greene County business and industry needs to secure ample quality employees. The new coordinator is also working to strengthen the communication pipeliw regarding local employment opportunities and also supporting the Greene Co. school districts with enhancing or expanding their career exploration endeavors. Mr. Chad Mason was hired in January to assume this role for the GCES and he also joins Amy Baldridge in serving as cochair for the Business Advisory Council.

The GCESC BAC has more than doubled its membership over the past four years and currently reflects a total of 70 active members, as the 2023 - 24 concludes. The membership representation is also becoming more diversified, reflecting a broad variety of diverse businesses and industries, community support agencies, local school districts, and postsecondary partners.

A new partnership was formed between the GCESC, Fairborn HS, the Dayton Regional Manufacturing Association (DRMA), and The Trades Institute to increase employment opportunities for underserved graduating or grade 12 students at Fairborn HS with uncertain transition plans, post-graduation. Funds supporting this training and job placement initiative were provided through a grant awarded to the Dayton Regional Manufacturing Association (DRMA).

A mini-grant RFA was submitted in January ٠ on behalf of the GCESC Business Advisory Council (BAC) and was approved by the Moonshot Ohio organization, sponsored by the Ohio Afterschool Network (OAN). This minigrant will provide designated school districts in Greene County with the opportunity to refer up to 4 of their middle school students for participation in a career camp to be held in late June. This career camp will include 4 full days of career exposure and will be generally organized as follows: The AM session will offer hands-on lessons and exposure to skills associated with a specific career of focus each day: the PM session will commence with transporting students to 4 designated sites (one per day) to meet with the employer, tour the facility, and witness the focused career in action. We are excited to launch this pilot aimed at exposing students to multiple job sites in Greene County with the goal of expanding its reach in the coming years.

Grant Bolsters GCESC Mental Health Services

Greene County Educational Service Center's (GCESC) Mental Health Services is in the third year of a trauma services grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA).

The Community Health and Resiliency Initiative, or CHRI, is designed to expand access to high-quality trauma treatment for children and families impacted by adverse events. Services are modeled after GCESC's school-based mental health program that has served the county's public schools for the past 24 years. CHRI's trauma therapy services, outreach and training are designed to be delivered as an embedded support in three crisis-oriented systems of care in Greene County, including Juvenile Court, Children Services and partner police departments in Fairborn and Xenia.

The newest member of the CHRI Trauma Services Team is Samantha Vanderhoff, who is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC). Sam was hired to work at Children Services starting in January. Assigned full-time in the Xenia office, she provides consultation and secondary traumatic support to workers in addition to individual and family therapy services for families connected to Children Services.

"We are so grateful for this opportunity and the support for our team is incredible," said Beth Rubin, Director of Greene County Department of Job and Family Services. "Having Vanderhoff available to support our clients and our workers as they process trauma is truly unique. We would never have imagined that this kind of on-site mental health response was possible. It is very exciting."

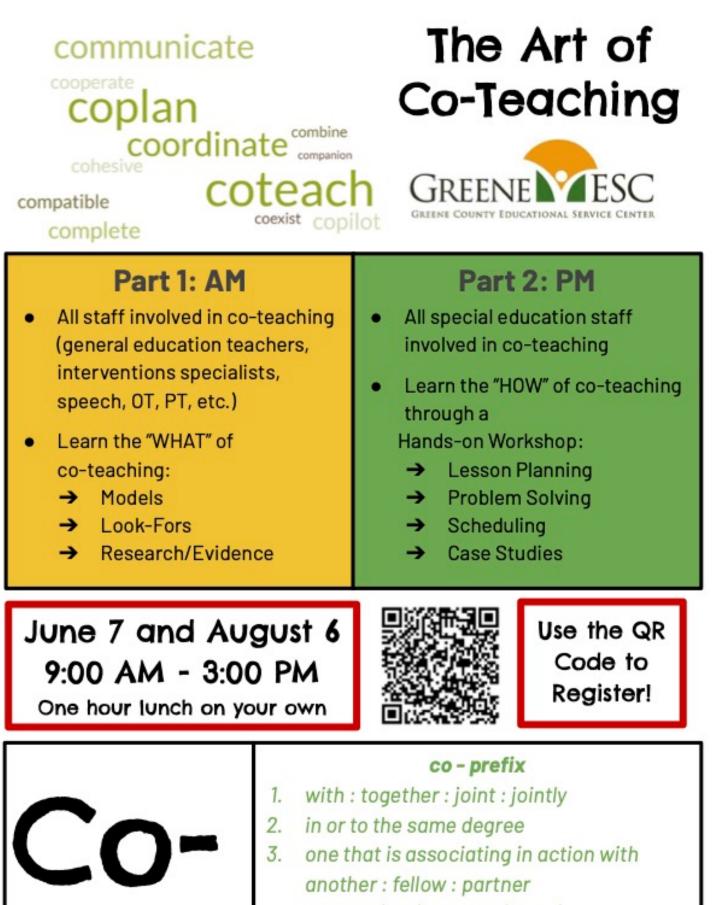
Lana Penney, Children Services Administrator, who has been key to on-boarding and orienting Vanderhoff into Children Services agency processes and program is excited about the initiative's impact.

"She is building positive relationships with staff and they are feeling supported by her for both the trauma children and families may be experiencing and their own secondary trauma," said Penney.

"It is a dream to have the chance to make connections throughout the county with different agencies to help children and families," said Vanderhoff. "I am really excited for the opportunity to fill a position that is needed in this community and build relationships to improve access to mental health across the county."

Vanderhoff is working with caseworkers to refine the referral process for connecting families with CHRI trauma services and providing real-time support for the complex work they do with some of the highestneed families in Greene County.

The CHRI Trauma Services Team includes Jeff Conrad, LPC, who is embedded in Juvenile Court where he serves youth and families connected to that system, Melanie Estes, OIFP-II, IECMH, OCPSA, who is the Project Manager and provides training, Dawn Carl, LPCC-S who provides clinical supervision and program support, and Anya Senetra, Director of Mental Health & Prevention Services who serves as the CHRI Authorized Official.



Origin: Latin (co-); English (com-)



GREENE COUNTY ELEMENTARY LETRS YEAR 1 COHORT STARTING 2024 - 25

LETRS: LANGUAGE ESSENTIALS FOR TEACHERS OF READING & SPELLING

In reviewing local requests for full LETRS training, no single Greene Co district submitted the names of 10 participants needed for facilitation; however, if all requests are **combined** through creating a local cohort, we might collectively meet the 10 person minimum threshold, provide greater access/convenience to participants, & extend multiple participant cost savings options to districts. ***NOTE: LETRS is structured to be a 2 YEAR COMMITMENT (See Below)**

Benefits of a Greene Co Elementary LETRS Cohort:

- Save Mileage Costs & Drive Time
 Upon Request, Hosting a Local Cohort at GCESC Provides a Much Closer Venue for
 ALL Local Participants (vs. Driving to MCESC when Providing Thru WOSC).
- Multiple Participant Cost Reduction (For Facilitation Component)
 - With 10 Minimum Threshold Met for the Cohort, Any District Sending 7 9 Participants will Receive a Reduced Facilitation Fee of 25\$ per Registrant;
 - Any District Sending 10 or More Participants will Receive a Reduced Facilitation Fee of \$50 per Registrant
- Flexible Sessions Both Dates/Times
 Accommodate/Coordinate Facilitation Aligned w/ Local Participants' and Facilitator's
 Schedules & Preferences
- Cultivate Collegial Connections across the County Develop a Professional Network w/ Other Key Literacy Leads across Greene Co.
- Graduate Credits or Transcripted Credits Available Participants may purchase credits through American College of Education *Details available upon request

LETRS Requirements & Associated Costs

LETRS: LANGUAGE ESSENTIALS FOR TEACHERS OF READING & SPELLING

1) Mandatory Vendor-Established Fee for LETRS Content with 12-month Participant Access to All LETRS Online Resources: \$400 per Participant

Payment Includes:

- Online Self-paced Modules
- Reading Chapters from the Text
- Bridge to Practice Activities (Connection Back to the Classroom)
- End of the Unit Training (a 6-hour training at the End of Each Unit)
- 2 Year Commitment & 2 year Division of Content:
 - YEAR ONE:
 - LETRS Volume 1 Word Recognition (\$400)
 - 4 units with 8 sessions in each unit
 - · YEAR TWO:
 - LETRS Volume 2 Language Comprehension (\$400)
 - 4 units w/ 6 session in each unit

2) Facilitation Fee: Required 1 Day Per Unit (\$800 x 4 Units) per Year *NOTE: Meeting Days/Time Chunks Co-Determined by Presenter & Participants

Facilitation Fee: \$800 per Day x 4 Units for 1 Year = \$3200 Total

Possible Discounted Facilitation Fees Applied as Follows:

- Districts Sending 7 9 Participants will Receive a \$25 Discount Per Registered Participant. Fee will Drop to \$775 Each
- Districts Sending 10 or More Participants will Receive a \$50 Discount Per Registered Participant. Fee will Drop to \$750 Each

3) SUMMARY TOTALS BELOW:

*Overall Yearly Cost Below is All-Inclusive (Includes All Materials, Online Modules, & Facilitation)

- 6 or Fewer Participants:
 > \$400 + \$3200 (\$800 x 4) = \$933 per Participant Year 1 (\$400 + 533)
- 7 9 Participants:
 - > \$400 + \$3100 (\$775 x 4) = \$843 per Participant Year 1 (\$400 + 443)
- 10 or More Participants:

> \$400 + \$3000 (\$750 x 4) = \$700 per Participant - Year 1 (\$400 + 300)

(AVAILABLE LETRS COHORT PRICING BASED ON MINIMUM 10 TOTAL REGISTRANTS)

* Contact Dr. Amy Baldridge for Addl. Information abaldridge@greeneesc.org; (937) 767 - 6142



GREENE COUNTY LETRS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS COHORT MODEL 2024 - 25

LETRS: LANGUAGE ESSENTIALS FOR TEACHERS OF READING & SPELLING

Benefits of a Local (Greene Co) LETRS Cohort:

- Save Mileage Costs & Drive Time Upon Request, Hosting a Local Cohort at GCESC Provides a Much Closer Venue for ALL Local Participants
- Multiple Participant Cost Reduction (Facilitation Component)
 - With 10 Minimum Threshold Met for the Cohort, Any District Sending 7 9 Participants will Receive a Reduced Facilitation Fee of 25\$ per Registrant;
 - Any District Sending 10 or More Participants will Receive a Reduced Facilitation Fee of \$50 per Registrant
- Flexible Sessions Both Dates/Times Accommodate/Coordinate Facilitation Aligned w/ Local Participants' and Facilitator's Schedules & Preferences
- Graduate Credits or Transcripted Credits Available Participants may purchase credits through American College of Education (ACE)
 *Details available upon request

LETRS Requirements & Associated Costs

OVERVIEW OF TRAINING STRUCTURE:

- LETRS Online Learning Platform—Each unit in the online learning platform consists of a certain # of sessions. To reinforce understanding, participants will complete activities throughout each session. There are 10 sessions in all.
 - > Units 1, 3, and 4 all contain two sessions, and
 - Unit 2 contains four sessions.
 - > Each online session ends with a Check for Understanding assessment.
- LETRS Bridge to Practice Activities—Each online session has a Bridge to Practice activity where you'll be guided to transfer what you learned to your classroom.
- LETRS for Early Childhood Educators Participant Manual—The printed participant manual is a companion to the online content. Participants can reference the manual before, during, or after completing the online content and activities.

LETRS for Early Childhood Educators Unit Trainings

- Two professional learning sessions align to the 4 units of content in the online platform & participant manual
- Each professional learning session is a min 6 hr. training led by a highly qualified LETRS facilitator (Nicole Ferguson is our certified facilitator)

WHAT ARE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LETRS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS TRAINING?

- Online course (including reading/participant manual): approx. 2 8 hrs per unit, depending on the unit
- Bridge to Practice application activities (online course): approx. 30 min 2 hrs per unit, depending on the unit

 Live in-person/live online Professional Learning Sessions: Between 6 - 9 hrs after completing Units 1-2, & another 6 - 9 training hrs after completing Units 3-4 in the LETRS for Early Childhood Educators online learning platform.

Total Facilitation Time: Between 12 - 18 training hrs (or approx 2 or 3 days), depending on PD preferences

Facilitation: 2 or 3 days - Days May Be Chunked into Hours vs. Days, if Preferred

Possible Discounted Facilitation Fees Applied as Follows:

- Districts Sending 7 9 Participants will Receive a \$25 Discount Per Registered Participant (from facilitation portion)
- Districts Sending 10+ Participants will Receive a \$50 Discount Per Registered Participant (from facilitation portion)

SUMMARY COSTS:

Costs Below are All-Inclusive (e.g. Materials, Online Modules, & Facilitation Included)

A) TOTAL LETRS EARLY CHILDHOOD PD w/ 2-Day Facilitation Support:

B) TOTAL LETRS EARLY CHILDHOOD PD w/ 3-Day Facilitation Support:

(AVAILABLE LETRS COHORT PRICING BASED ON MINIMUM 10 TOTAL REGISTRANTS)

* Contact Dr. Amy Baldridge for Addl. Information abaldridge@greeneesc.org; (937) 767 - 6142



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Creating Trauma Sensitive Classrooms

This class will:

- increase your understanding of trauma, chronic stress, and adverse childhood experiences.
- discuss the importance of creating physical and psychological safe spaces using compassion and mindfulness in daily interactions.
- help you create rituals, routines, procedures, and interactions for building connections and stronger relationships with your students.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024

9:00AM - 4:00PM

GREENE COUNTY ESC 360 E. ENON ROAD Yellow Springs, oh 45387

REGISTRATION LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS

This session is grant funded and provided at NO cost to you!!! Graduate credit is available for additional cost through Wittenberg University.

Questions? E-mail: ECMHTeam@greeneESC.org



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Early Childhood Mental Health

Monday, June 3, 2024 9:00am-4:00pm

Greene County ESC 360 E. Enon Road Yellow Springs, OH 45387

REGISTRATION LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS

This session is grant funded and provided at NO cost to you!!! Graduate credit is available for additional cost through Wittenberg University. This class will:

- Explore the foundational emotional, social, and developmental skills of children, birth to age 8.
- Discuss brain development and how it relates to challenging behaviors.
- Develop skills to increase early experience, social, emotional, behavioral, and relational health.





Questions? E-mail: ECMHTeam@greeneESC.org

Please join us online for a session on...

Positive

Parenting

GREENE

The Early Childhood Mental Health 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.

Tuesday, April 9th - 8:00pm-8:30pm Wednesday, April 10th - 1:00pm-1:30pm Tuesday, April 23rd - 8:00pm-8:30pm Wednesday, April 24th - 1:00pm-1:30pm This month's topic: Supporting children's emotional health and intelligence while promoting resiliency

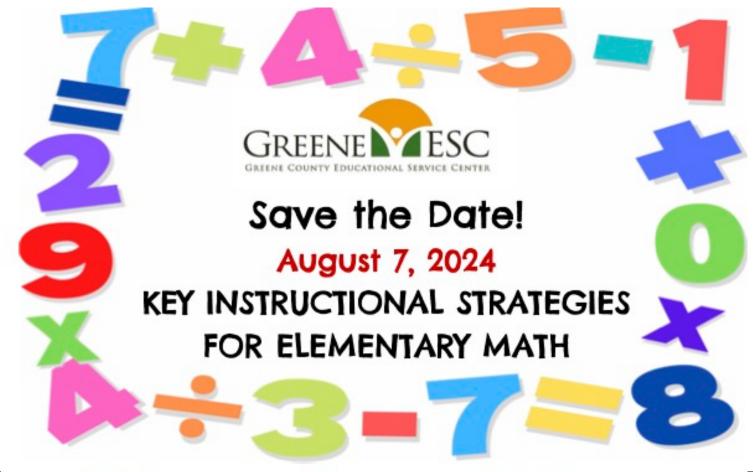
> Join each meeting here: https://zoom.us/j/97049694203

E-mail: ECMHTeam@greeneESC.org for more

information or if you can't make a session but want to know more!







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