

# *STARK COUNTY EARLY INTERVENTION PARENT HANDBOOK*



Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities



**HIO**

**Early Intervention**

*A seven member Board governs the  
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities:*

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STARK DD EARLY INTERVENTION ADMINISTRATION

William Green.....Superintendent  
Kristen Quicci.....Director of Early Intervention  
& Nursing Services

*Stark County Early Intervention operates under the auspices of the  
Stark County Family Council who partners with Stark County  
Board of Developmental Disabilities to provide services to families.*

STARK COUNTY HELP ME GROW ADMINISTRATION

Dan Gichevski.....Family Council Director  
Regina Falter.....Contract Manager/Supervisor

## **MISSION OF EARLY INTERVENTION**

**Early intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities.**

### **KEY PRINCIPLES OF EARLY INTERVENTION**

1. Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts.
2. All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development.
3. The primary role of a service provider in early intervention is to work with and support family members and caregivers in children's lives.
4. The early intervention process, from initial contacts through transition, must be dynamic and individualized to reflect the child's and family members' preferences, learning styles and cultural beliefs.
5. IFSP outcomes must be functional and based on children's and families' needs and family-identified priorities.
6. The family's priorities, needs and interests are addressed most appropriately by a primary provider who represents and receives team and community support.
7. Interventions with young children and family members must be based on explicit principles, validated practices, best available research, and relevant laws and regulations.

**Developed by the Workgroup on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments:** Susan Addision, Betsy Ayankoya, Mary Beth Bruder, Carl Dunst, Larry Edelman, Andy Gomm, Barbara Hanft, Cori Hill, Joicey Hurth, Grace Kelley, Anne Lucas, Robin McWilliam, Stephanie Moss, Lynda Pletcher, Dathan Rush, M'Lisa Shelden, Mary Steenberg, Judy Swett, Nora Thompson, Julianne Woods, and Naomi Younggren.

# The Flow of Stark County Early Intervention (E.I.) Services:

**Step 1:**  
**Referral to Early Intervention**  
--assignment of a Service Coordinator (SC)  
-SC meets with family  
- SC takes information to E.I. Team. Primary Service Provider selected (PSP)

**Step 2:**  
**Determination of Eligibility for Early Intervention (E.I.) services and assessment of your child's development to determine Need For EI Services**

**Step 3:**  
**If eligible for E.I. Services, your SC and PSP will coordinate E.I. services through Stark County Board of DD**

**Step 4:**  
**Writing of your Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) to include Stark DD's E.I. services**

**Step 5:**  
**Ongoing services through Stark County's E.I. Team and periodic reviews of your IFSP outcomes**  
-- Annual review of eligibility (if applicable) and assessment for need for continued services.

**Step 6:**  
**Transition planning begins when your child turns 27 months. Children are no long eligible for Early Intervention services when they turn three years of age.**

# Welcome to Stark County Early Intervention

The Early Intervention program (E.I.) has been available to children and their families in Stark County since 1968.

The Stark County E.I. program is built upon the philosophy that every child is unique and capable of learning, and that each family plays the primary role in their child's development. Staff members understand that some children require extra help to reach their full potential.

Through a team approach and with respect for cultural diversity, our staff members provide parents and caregivers specialized coaching, specific techniques, and appropriate resources that may be used in every day interactions and routines with their children.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for Stark County's E.I. services a child must be a resident of Stark County, under three years of age, and have been found eligible for our services due to a significant developmental delay in one or more of the following areas or has a medical diagnosis which has a high probability of resulting in delays in one or more of the following areas:

- Cognition - *Thinking and problem solving*
- Communication - *Understanding, gesturing, and talking*
- Social/Emotional – *Getting along with others and expressing feelings*
- Physical Development – *Refining gross and fine motor skills*
- Adaptive skills – *self-help and daily living skills*
- Vision and/or Hearing difficulty or ongoing medical concerns.

## Cost

Our E.I. services are funded through local and state tax dollars. Local dollars are provided through the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities levies and funding from the State of Ohio for Evaluation, Eligibility, Determination, and Service Coordination. There is no cost to the families for Stark County's E.I. services.

## List of Frequently Used Abbreviations

E.I.- Early Intervention  
FSS – Family Support Services  
IFSP- Individualized Family Service Plan  
OT- Occupational Therapist  
PT- Physical Therapist  
SLP - Speech Language Pathologist  
UI – Unusual Incident  
DD- Developmental Disability  
ODH-Ohio Department of Health

HMG – Help Me Grow  
DS - Developmental Specialist  
MUI – Major Unusual Incident  
PSP- Primary Service Provider  
SC – Service Coordinator  
SSP – Secondary Service Provider  
Stark DD – Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities  
DODD-Ohio Dept. of Developmental  
Disabilities

# What you can expect from Stark's Early Intervention Program...

## 1. Identify Your Concerns

Your Early Intervention service coordinator will facilitate your enrollment in our program. Upon referral, your SC will present your child's case to our Stark County Early Intervention Team which consists of Developmental Specialists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Pathologists, a Registered Dietician, and E.I. Assistants. During an E.I. Team meeting, a Primary Service Provider will be selected based on the concerns you have for your child's development. Your SC and PSP will arrange a time convenient for your family to complete a developmental evaluation with your child as well as assist your family in identifying your concerns regarding your child's development. These individualized confidential conversations are conducted by phone or in meetings arranged at a time and place that is convenient for your family. Your PSP and E.I. Team are available to answer your family's questions regarding E.I., and will provide ongoing assistance for your child and family throughout your participation in E.I.

Please let your E.I. team know if you wish to talk with other parents who are or have been involved with Early Intervention services. Often, families find that talking with other parents can be beneficial.

## 2. Assessing Your Child's Development

Your SC and PSP will collaborate with you and your family to plan and complete an assessment for your child. This assessment is designed to gather important information about your child's unique learning style within your daily activities. Shortly after completion, The SC or PSP will review the results of your child's developmental assessment with you.

## 3. Planning Your Child's Services

The assessment results will be used to help guide you in designing your child's E.I. services. Your child's intervention services will be formalized through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). An IFSP meeting will be arranged by your service coordinator to occur at a time and place mutually agreed upon by you and your E.I. team. You are encouraged to include family members, friends, and other significant individuals in the writing of this plan. Your IFSP will include your concerns, a summary of your child's developmental assessment results, the outcomes you set for your child and family, and a listing of the E.I. services necessary to address those outcomes. This plan will be used to guide services and track your child's progress.

## 4. Ongoing Stark DD Early Intervention Services

Once Stark DD E.I. services are officially listed on your child's IFSP, delivery of these ongoing services will begin. E.I. services are available in your home or other community setting, such as day care or the home of a family babysitter. Your family's intervention program is adjusted based on your child's progress and the changing needs of the family.

## 5. Transition Services Prior to Third Birthday

At age three, children are no longer eligible for E.I. services. Nine months prior to your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, your HMG service coordinator, PSP, and your family will begin to prepare for your child's transition process from E.I. to preschool. Prior to 3 months before your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, your SC, PSP, and school district representative will hold a Transition Meeting. This meeting will give you the opportunity to learn about services available to your child once he/she turns three years old. Per federal law, a child's home school district becomes responsible for educating a preschool aged child who has been identified with special needs.

# Meet the Stark County E.I. Team

The Stark County E.I. team is comprised of professionals from several developmental disciplines. The team includes: Service Coordinator, Developmental Specialist, Speech Pathologist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, E.I. Assistant, Registered Dietician, and Stark DD and Service Coordinator supervisors. Based upon your expressed concerns for your child, one of these team members will be chosen to be the Primary Service Provider (PSP) for your family.

*Below is a chart that generally defines the role of each staff member:*

## **Service Coordinator (SC)**

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- To guarantee the family understands their Parents Rights in HMG.
- To obtain parents' consent for child to be screen, evaluated, and assessed.
- To ensure that a child has a developmental evaluation as requested.
- To ensure every eligible child has a multidisciplinary assessment to determine the child's need for services.
- To ensure every family has a Family Assessment with parents' consent.
- To participate as a member of the evaluation/assessment team
- To ensure every child and family has a completed Annual IFSP and Periodic IFSP indicated by ODH rule.
- To be a supporting team member for the overall development of the child and family.
- Participates as part of the E.I. team in coaching other team members to help meet the needs of their individual families.

### **Training & Educational Background**

- Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in a field related to working with infants, toddlers, or children with disabilities, or families such as: Education, Psychology, Child Development, Social Work, Counseling, Nursing, or other related fields.
- Current Licensure/certification in Education, Nursing, Social Work, and/or Early Intervention.
- Maintain Service Coordinator Credential through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

## **Developmental Specialist (DS)**

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Provides consultation and coaching to caregivers on interventions for encouraging developmental progressions to meet milestones
- When PSP, works with your HMG service coordinator to assist families with transitions to other services and programs.
- When PSP, participates in developmental assessments.
- Provides ongoing services for your child and family as described in the IFSP
- Provides instruction and coaching for all developmental domains.

- Participates as part of the E.I. team in coaching other team members to help meet the needs of their individual families.

**Training & Educational Background**

- Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in one of the following areas: Education, Psychology, Sociology, Child Development, Social Work, Counseling, or other related fields.
- Certification by the Ohio Dept. of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) to provide developmental intervention for children birth -36 months which requires specific courses in infant-toddler development, family dynamics, assessment, and instructional methods.

**Physical Therapist (PT)**

**Primary Responsibilities**

- Provides consultation and coaching to caregivers on therapeutic interventions for children who are having difficulty with their large motor movements (gross motor), coordination and musculoskeletal status.
- Monitors and assists with all developmental domains as described on the IFSP.
- Participates as part of the E.I. team in coaching other team members to help meet the needs of their individual families.

**Training & Educational Background**

- Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Physical Therapy from accredited PT program.
- Licensure from the Ohio Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy/Athletic Trainers Board.
- Licensed by Ohio Department of Education as a Physical Therapist

**Occupational Therapist (OT)**

**Primary Responsibilities**

- Provides consultation and coaching to caregivers on therapeutic interventions for children who are having difficulty with their small motor movements (fine motor), coordination, self-help skills, and feeding skills. May also address concerns about processing sensory information.
- Monitors and assists with all developmental domains as described on the IFSP.
- Participates as part of the E.I. team in coaching other team members to help meet the needs of their individual families.

**Training & Educational Background**

- Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy from accredited OT program.
- Licensure from the Ohio OT/PT/AT Board.



## **Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)**

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Provides consultation and coaching to caregivers on therapeutic interventions for children who are having difficulty with receptive and expressive communication, feeding, and/or oral motor skills.
- Monitors and assists with all developmental domains as described on the IFSP.
- Participates as part of the E.I. team in coaching other team members to help meet the needs of their individual families.

### **Training & Educational Background**

- Minimum of Master's Degree in Speech Language Pathology.
- Licensed by Ohio Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology
- Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech and Hearing Association
- Licensed by Ohio Department of Education as Speech Language Pathologist

## **Registered Dietitian**

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Provides medical nutrition therapy to equip parents with the tools to provide optimal nutritional intake for their child's growth and development.
- Performs assessments of individuals' nutritional needs and recommends goal-oriented interventions.

### **Training & Educational Background**

- Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in food & nutrition
- Completion of an accredited 1-2 year internship to sit for the Registration Exam.

## **E.I. Assistant**

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Provides assistance to all E.I. staff in all areas
- Serves as Team Leader for team meetings, maintaining agendas, minutes, and child files
- Coordinates weekly Playgroup and all other community activities for E.I. families
- Maintains pertinent paperwork for department
- Constructs monthly E.I. newsletter

### **Training & Educational Background**

- Minimum of high school diploma
- Computer training and experience necessary

## **Service Coordinator Supervisor**

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Guarantees the Early Intervention program is implemented according to the rules set forth by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.
- Ensures Parents' Rights are being maintained in HMG.
- Provides guidance and support to all Service Coordination staff.

### **Training & Educational Background**

- Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in a field related to working with infants, toddlers, or children with disabilities, or families such as: Education, Psychology, Child Development, Social Work, Counseling, Nursing, or other related fields.
- Current Licensure in Education, Nursing, Social Work, and/or Early Intervention.
- Maintain Supervisor and Service Coordinator Credential through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

## **Stark DD Director of Early Intervention**

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Guarantees the Early Intervention program is implemented according to the rules set forth by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Ensures services are delivered by Stark DD E.I. staff as noted on each family's IFSP.
- Provides guidance and support to all Stark DD E.I. staff.

### **Training & Educational Background**

- Minimum of Master's Degree in Education with a concentration related to working with infants, toddlers, or children with disabilities, and/or supervision of staff.
- Current Licensure as a Principal or Educational Supervisor by the Ohio Department of Education and/or certification from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities as an E.I. Supervisor

# Child Development

The first three years of your child's life are critical in shaping his/her future development. Your child approaches the world in a way that reflects a unique genetic make-up and temperament. Child development experts agree that your child's growth involves complex interactions among many developmental areas. Early Intervention focuses on the interactions among the following developmental areas for ongoing assessment and intervention:

## **Cognition**

(thinking & problem solving)

## **Oral Motor**

(eating & talking)

## **Fine Motor**

(using hands & fingers)

## **Gross Motor**

(crawling & walking)

## **Communication**

(understanding, gesturing, & talking)

## **Social/Emotional**

(getting along with others & expressing feelings)

## **Self-Help**

(dressing, feeding, & toilet training)

## **Sensory**

(understanding the world through the senses of touch, sight, & sound)

Working on progressing in these developmental areas is approached with a family routines and needs focus.

# Everyday Activities Provide Infants & Toddlers With Meaningful Learning Opportunities

Stark County's Early Intervention model for services is a *coaching model*. Research indicates the best approach to early intervention is a multi-disciplinary approach which means several specialists work together on a team to serve one child's many needs. Based on the family's expressed needs, the team will choose the specialist/therapist who it seems to make the most sense to act as the family's main service provider. This person is the Primary Service Provider or PSP.

Research has also shown that everyday activities and routines within familiar environments such as home, grandparent's house, and childcare centers provide the setting for naturally occurring intervention opportunities. These familiar environments can provide the sense of security necessary to encourage your child to explore a new learning opportunity.

Learning a new skill outside of a context that is meaningful and familiar can be difficult for children. You will find that teaching your child within everyday activities not only increases our child's desire to learn, but is also enjoyable for you.

Everyday experiences that are enjoyable for your child and family provide the motivation critical to the learning process. Routine activities such as feeding, bathing, and play time within your schedules can provide meaningful learning opportunities for your child.

Everyday routines occurring in familiar natural environments also provide important opportunities for generalization of skills. Generalization occurs when your child learns a new skill within one situation and then uses that skill in a new situation.

Children learn through play experiences and interactions with others during everyday events. Because your child develops and learns best within the context of your family; your role in your child's development and intervention is critical.

Your E.I. team coaches you and other significant caregivers using specific information, tools, and practice opportunities that will assist you in furthering your child's development. It is our goal that you can use this training within daily routines wherever your child plays and interacts such as a park, at home, or at a friend's house. The coaching model enables you to be effective in continuing meaningful learning opportunities beyond formal professional sessions and, in doing so, take full advantage of your child's everyday routines.

Your E.I. team will explain the specific approaches to be used during the session and will coach you through engaging in the activities with your child. E.I. staff will give you guidance and the following:

- ◆ Periodic review of progress and statement of objectives
- ◆ Explanation of specific approaches and techniques to be practiced
- ◆ Parents/caregivers are given coaching to perform techniques
- ◆ E.I. team provides guidance and feedback to parents/caregivers
- ◆ Parents and E.I. team members agree upon a joint plan for activities for the period between home visit sessions

# Developmental Assessment

## *Each Child is Unique*

The order in which child development proceeds is generally predictable (*e.g. children learn to stand before they walk*). However, when a child acquires a specific skill can vary from child to child. One child may say his first word at ten months, while another child may not speak his first word until 14 months. Both of these are within the expected age range for infant-toddler development.

## *Effect of Environment*

Infants and toddlers respond differently, depending upon the environment and the people with whom they interact. For this important reason, we work to get the best picture of your child's development by completing the developmental assessment in the places and at the times that your child responds best. Your thoughts and input will help determine times and places that are best for your child to receive his/her intervention services.

## *Your Child's Approach to Learning*

A variety of developmental tools are used to gather information regarding the child's skills and family's concerns and priorities. The results are then shared with the family and are used as the basis for setting short and long term objectives.

## *Updating Assessment Information*

Any assessment is only a snapshot of your child's development. Young children can change very quickly. Stark County's E.I. staff recognizes that to be an accurate reflection of your child's development, your child's assessment should be ongoing. Beyond your child's initial assessment, we will regularly update your child's developmental profile. Based on this ongoing assessment, E.I. staff will continually adjust its approach so that services are appropriate for your child's developmental needs.

# **Your Role in Maintaining E.I. Services**

## **Early Intervention Cancellation Policy**

Stark County's Early Intervention staff works hard at scheduling appointments at mutually agreeable times for family and staff. We understand completely that life happens and when a parent makes an appointment a month in advance, things may occasionally come up that make a parent unable to keep the appointment. Please never feel badly about cancelling. We would much rather have a parent cancel instead of getting to a home and having no one come to the door. We all have lives and really do understand how things happen. If you just don't feel like having the visit, let the staff members know. We won't judge, we promise!

However, chronic cancellations and appointment changes make it extremely difficult to provide quality services to all families on an equitable basis. Not only are staff making appointments with you a month ahead, they are also making appointments with their entire caseload. Therefore, the following cancellation procedures are in effect for all families receiving Stark County Early Intervention services:

1. Due to the compromised medical conditions of many of the children we see, Early Intervention staff members are not to provide services when the children or adults are ill. In consideration of our staff and the other families we serve, please notify the appropriate people to cancel any appointments when there is an illness in the family that our staff may come into contact with.
2. If families must cancel, the appointment will be rescheduled if at all possible when the service providers have an opening at a time that fits the family's schedule.
3. If an Early Intervention staff member must cancel, every effort will be made to reschedule or to make up the appointment at a mutually agreeable time.
4. After 3 unsuccessful attempts to contact you within 30 days, we may exit you from our EI program. If you are exited you may call our KIDLINK number (330.492.6900) to re-refer your child to EI.
5. If staff members arrive at a home visit and can hear/see children inside the home but no adult answers the door or phone or responds to attempts by the E.I. staff members to speak to an adult in the home, the E.I. staff members have been instructed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities they must notify the local law enforcement agency to conduct a well child check in the home to make sure the parents and children are all okay. So, if a parent just doesn't feel like having the visit that day, ignoring the E.I. staff member's calls, texts and/or knocks may result in a law enforcement visit which could have been avoided with a simple cancellation text or call. We do not want to put anyone in this position so please just let us know you don't want that day's visit.

The E.I. staff value and appreciate the more than 260 families we are serving at any one time. These procedures are in place to continue serving our families in the manner best for the children.

## **Family Pets During Home Visits**

For your safety and that of your child and the E.I. staff members, it is very important that dogs be placed either outside or in a separate secure room while E.I. staff is in your home. The nicest dog in the world may become aggressive toward a staff member who is touching your child and/or the child is crying a lot because they don't want to do what you and the staff member are having the child do. As the dog only sees the staff members occasionally, they cannot feel secure that your child is safe with this person. Rather than have an incident for which you feel terrible, it is best to prevent anything from happening.

In addition, as allergies to cats are not all that uncommon, please be sure to let your Service Coordinator know if you have or acquire a cat while we are providing services to your family. This will allow us to make sure we do not assign service providers to come into your home who will spend the whole time sneezing and with itchy watery eyes.

If services are provided in someone else's home, these same procedures must be followed.

If staff members arrive at any home visit and a dog is present and not secured, they are instructed to tell families that the dog must be put in a separate room and remain in the room for the entire visit or the visit will have to be rescheduled.

## **Confidentiality**

Information you provide us about your child and family is kept confidential. Only upon written permission from you will any part of your child's records be released to another agency.

## **Ensuring Health & Safety**

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities created the Major Unusual Incident (MUI) system many years ago for the purpose of protecting people with disabilities who often have difficulty communicating issues and/or protecting themselves from harm. This MUI system helps in identifying the cause or factors leading up to an incident and developing prevention plans to reduce the likelihood of the incident occurring again. All Stark DD staff are required to report MUI's to the early childhood director upon finding out about them. An MUI is an alleged, suspected, or actual occurrence of an incident that has caused harm or can reasonably be expected to result in harm to a child. Again, this is only for the protection of your child.

When an incident occurs that is not considered in the above category, this is considered an Unusual Incident (UI). A UI is an event or occurrence involving a child that is basically an accident or minor in nature.

Regardless of whether an incident is considered major or minor, written reports must be made on all incidents staff becomes aware of. One more time, this is only for the protection of the child.

Anyone in the community may report an MUI 24 hours a day if they become aware of a situation where a person with a developmental disability may be in harm's way. To report an MUI, please use the following:

MUI HOTLINE (330) 477-4477

FAX (330) 477-0016

EMAIL [MUIReport@starkmrdd.org](mailto:MUIReport@starkmrdd.org)

## **Stark DD Bedbug Protocol**

You have probably seen in the news about the bedbug epidemic unfortunately happening these days, with a lot of focus on Stark County. Stark DD has worked closely with the Stark County Board of Health to adopt an aggressive policy for prevention of spreading bedbugs. In order to protect you and your home, all Stark DD E.I. staff members will be wearing disposable shoe covers when entering your home. In addition, only absolutely necessary items are to be carried into homes to lessen the chance of bringing something from another home into yours. If materials must be brought into your home, they are to be carried by staff members in clear containers of some kind so it may be easily seen if they have picked up any kind of bug anywhere in their travels. All toys and carrying cases are to be disinfected between uses with families. These procedures are being used by all Stark DD E.I. staff members with all 260+ families we have on our caseload at any one time. Please do not be offended and feel we are saying there is an issue in your home when staff wear their shoe covers or take other precautionary measures. We are actually trying to protect your family and your home.

## **Family Support Services**

The Family Support Services (FSS) program is a service provided by the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities. This program provides support funding to enable the family to better care for their child at home. Funding may help with adaptive toys, home modifications, babysitting costs for the child who is in E.I. and more. Be sure to talk to your PSP or SC about how to apply for FSS funding if you have needs for your child and/or home for which this funding may be used.

## **Calamity Days**

Occasionally, conditions exist that will cause the cancellation of services, mainly for weather purposes. If Stark DD issues a **Code 1 or 2**, any Early Intervention services scheduled for that day will not occur and staff will be in touch with you to reschedule home visits. The cancellations include any other Early Intervention community activities. Closings will be listed on WEWS Channel 5 and on WHBC AM (1480). In addition, you may visit [www.starkdd.org](http://www.starkdd.org) or call the main switchboard at 330-477-5200 to find out if Stark DD is closed.

In the case of a 2 hour delay being called, any home visits or meetings scheduled between 8-10am that day will be cancelled and will have to be rescheduled. Anything scheduled to be held after 10am that day will occur as scheduled.



## **FYI...Management of Illness**

In order to promote wellness for our children, families and staff, we all must work together. If your child or the caregiver show any of the following symptoms, we ask that you cancel your visit with us:

1. Temperature of 99 degrees F taken under the arm or a tympanic (ear) or temporal artery temperature of 100.6 degrees
2. Skin rash
3. Diarrhea (more than 1 abnormally loose stool within a 24 hour period) and/or vomiting more than 2 times in one day
4. Sore throat
5. Severe coughing (causing the child to become red or blue in the face or to make a whooping sound)
6. Excessive sneezing or runny nose
7. Evidence of lice, scabies or other parasitic infection
8. Redness in eyes, discharge from the eyes and/or crusted eyelids—conjunctivitis (pink eye)
9. Yellowish skin or eyes
10. Untreated infected skin patches
11. Unusually dark urine and/or gray or white stool
12. Stiff neck
13. Difficult or rapid breathing
14. Any combination of the symptoms listed above.

## **Immunizations**

Families are encouraged to keep their child current with immunizations. Speak to the child's health care provider if you are concerned about having your child receive immunizations.

## Community Activities

Each Tuesday, from 10:00-11:00AM, a virtual playgroup is held using a virtual platform called Webex (similar to Zoom). A link to join is sent out every week on Sunday by email and a REMIND text message is sent out on Tuesday mornings @ 9:30AM with a link to join as well. All early intervention families are added to both of these lists when an IFSP is signed. Playgroups are geared toward children 5 years and younger and siblings are more than welcome to attend. Each month's activities have a different theme and may include sensory play, story, music, creating an art piece, kid's cooking and more.

In addition, families have the opportunity to participate in playgroup in person on the first and third Tuesday of each month (weather permitting). These playgroups are held at different parks in Stark County each session. You will find the park location information in your monthly newsletter and on the weekly email/REMIND invites sent to you. Contact your service coordinator or primary service provider to make sure you receive the monthly E.I. newsletter so you may keep up with all the opportunities available to be involved with your community.



**Offices for all Stark County Early Intervention staff are located at:**

**Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
Whipple-Dale Center**

2950 Whipple Ave NW  
Canton, Ohio 44708  
(330) 479-3810

[www.starkdd.org](http://www.starkdd.org)

[www.ohioearlyintervention.org](http://www.ohioearlyintervention.org)

Accredited tri-annually by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.