

Early Intervention Program

Additional support offered by

Erin Finley, Social Worker, LISW

Erin graduated from Ohio University after completing both undergraduate and graduate degrees in social work. She has been working in the mental health field for 5 years. Erin has worked with kids in a variety of settings providing clinic based services, school based services, home visits, and community activities. In addition, Erin holds the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant (ECMH) Credential and has been providing consultation services to preschools/ day care centers to prevent expulsion of young children. Relatively new to early intervention, Erin has been on the team for one year. She is passionate about her work and values empowering parents, promoting resiliency, and helping families accomplish their goals.

Kelly Sylvester, MA, CCC-A, Audiologist Tele- EI Hearing Services, Family Child Learning Center, Akron Children's Hospital

Kelly has been an Audiologist working in both clinical settings and early intervention since 2003. She attended Kent State University for both undergraduate and graduate degrees and currently resides in north-east Ohio. She is currently providing services via The Department of Developmental Delay (DODD) grant-funded program located at the Family Child Learning Center, a division of Akron Children's Hospital. Services are provided to children ages birth to three with hearing loss using a tele-practice service delivery approach to support early intervention teams and families in 55 counties in Ohio.

- ◆ Intervention is likely to be more effective and less costly when it is provided earlier in life rather than later.
- ◆ A PSP approach is the preferred teaming strategy in early childhood intervention
- ◆ This approach may result in increased participation in everyday life, leading to more learning opportunities for infants and toddlers

"We may not be able to prepare the future for our children, but we can at least prepare our children for the future."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Carrie Robers, Early Intervention Service Coordinator,

Carrie started with HMG in 2008 as a Service Coordinator and while she has experienced a variety of roles with the Board of DD over the years, her heart has always been with service coordination. When the opportunity came again in 2017, she took it! As a Service Coordinator Carrie meets with the family initially to learn their needs and hopes and connect them to services and then follows the family along throughout their Early Intervention journey. Carrie has personal experience with Early Intervention as well, when her youngest son was born with an intraventricular hemorrhage at birth and required a VP shunt at 3 weeks of age. Carrie and her husband spent a month living at Ronald McDonald House while their son was in the NICU and upon returning home took full advantage of HMG services enrolling their son in physical therapy. She has seen first-hand how Early Intervention can help kids get where they need to be and fully appreciates the support that carries over to parents during what can be a very scary and unpredictable time.

If you suspect a delay for **any** child, birth to age three, please call us!
A service coordinator will work with the family to explain and coordinate the evaluation and assessment process to determine eligibility.
Evaluations and assessments are provided at no cost to the family.

Hocking County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Early Childhood Department
Hocking Co. Early Intervention



Located inside the Hocking County Board of Developmental Disabilities building at
1369 E. Front St.
Logan, OH 43138
(740)380-1315 -or- 1-877-301-2229
www.hockingdd.org



Primary Service Provider Model to Early Intervention Services



While usually in the home, Early Intervention services are based on the family's priorities. This family wanted their kiddo to work on eating and asking for "more" in a restaurant.



Learning to ask for "more"

A team of professionals supporting families to build their capacity to promote their child's growth & development naturally.

Hocking County Early Intervention Team Members include:

Annabelle Bender, Developmental Specialist:

From her local community to international soil, Annabelle seeks to build relationships and foster meaningful learning for every individual. Her work with children and families has led her to Africa, Russia and immigrant communities within Ohio. Annabelle earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from Ohio University and holds licensure as an Early Childhood Educator.

Michele Courtney, Physical Therapist/CLT,MBA:

Michele has been a Physical Therapist since 1994 and has practiced in many areas. She returned to working with children in 2006 when she joined Ohio University and began working with Hocking County Help Me Grow/ Early Intervention. When not teaching PT students at Ohio University, she is treating kids in their homes. She has also completed her PhD in higher education administration. Outside of work, Michele enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons at sporting events, hiking, biking, and camping or reading.

Amber Perpich, Occupational Therapist:

Amber earned her undergraduate degree from Ohio University and received her Master of Occupational Therapy degree from Shawnee State University. In graduate school, Amber experienced a wide variety of field-work placements including acute care, schools, home health, and early intervention. Amber is a licensed Occupational Therapist in the state of Ohio and is certified through the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. She loves working closely with families helping them build upon their capacity to support and promote the development of their infants and toddlers.

What is the Primary Service Provider Model to Early Intervention?

The Primary Service Provider Model is an evidence-based approach to Early Intervention Services where a team of professionals work together to provide assessment, evaluation, intervention, consultation and education in order to support children, families, and caregivers.

One specific person is chosen from the Early Intervention team of specialists to serve as the family's main contact. This selection centers around the strengths and needs of the child and the family. The lead team member or Primary Service Provider (PSP) may use adult learning strategies such as coaching as a way to interact with and teach the parents and caregivers.

The PSP provides regular support to the family, backed by the entire team of specialists who may provide services to the family through joint visits with the PSP and on a consultation basis. □

Visits by the PSP and specialists are conducted in the child's natural surroundings, such as the home, babysitter's house, or even a park or library. The visits are designed to teach the family and other care providers strategies to foster the child's development through participation in routine family activities.

The goal of this approach is to build the capacity of parents and caregivers to support their child through increased confidence and competence, and to promote the child's growth and development through natural learning opportunities. This goal is consistent with The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C and supported by the Mission and Key Principles for Providing Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments.



Sierra Mayle, Speech-Language Pathologist:

Born and raised in Southeastern Ohio, Sierra has recently graduated from Baldwin Wallace University with her Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. She completed her undergraduate degree at Ohio University. Sierra has experienced a wide-variety of populations during her time in graduate school including outpatient settings with adults and children, schools, inpatient pediatrics, and was involved in the Autism Diagnostic team at University Hospital. Sierra has recently started working with the early intervention population and loves to engage with families and children to provide everyday speech and language!

Katy Linscott, Speech-Language Pathologist:

Born and raised in Athens, Katy has worked with children in a variety of clinic, school and in-home settings. She attended Ohio University for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Katy is licensed in the state of Ohio, holds her Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and maintains her school certification through the Ohio Department of Education. Katy has a heart for early intervention and working with the whole family. She loves her job because children make her laugh every day! Katy lends her expertise these days in training the allied therapists of Hopewell Health Services in the Early Intervention approach and acting as their supervisor.

Michele Hipple, Developmental Specialist:

Native to Hocking County, Michele has chosen to stay close to home. Michele earned her Bachelor's degree in psychology from Ohio University focusing on child and brain development. From her first job at Nationwide Children's Hospital Autism Center to her 16 years here with Help Me Grow and Early Intervention, her career focus has been on the crucial role primary caregivers have on influencing a child's development. She loves working with children because there is no greater hope than the potential of the next generation. She sees every day for the opportunity that it holds.