



Facts & Figures:

Early Care & Children with Disabilities

Access

- Many families live in “childcare deserts” - where there are not enough childcare openings, or those openings are not accessible to children with disabilities.
- Parents of children with disabilities experience greater difficulty finding childcare compared to parents of children without disabilities.
- Over one third of parents of children with disabilities are not able to find care.

Economic Impact

- Parents who have children with disabilities are at a higher risk of poverty due to the economic demands of raising a child with special needs and can often not afford quality care.
- Parents of children with disabilities are three times more likely to report leaving their job, not taking a job, or making significant changes to their job due to problems with child care.

Benefits

- Inclusive childcare settings are beneficial for children with and without disabilities.
- Children with disabilities have the opportunity to: learn by observing; practice social skills; experience a wide variety of activities.
- Children without disabilities increase: appreciation and acceptance of difference; empathy; skill mastery by demonstrating and teaching others.

Resources

[BOLD Beginning!](#)

Ohio's clearinghouse for early childhood information and resources. Audiences include parents, grandparents, caretakers, teachers, and child care providers.

[Family Resource Network of Ohio \(FRNO\)](#)

A collection of resources, tools, and trainings for families. FRNO provides families a free account with access to an on-line family forum, statewide family event calendar and Charting the LifeCourse tools.

[OCALI Center for the Young Child \(CYC\)](#)

Training and resources for families and caregivers. CYC is dedicated to giving children with disabilities the best possible start in life because early experiences impact lifelong outcomes.

[Ohio Early Intervention](#)

Ohio's statewide system that provides coordinated services to parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays in Ohio.

Data

1. Henry, J. R.; Adams, G. (2018) Increasing Access to Quality Child Care for Four Priority Populations. Urban Institute. https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99150/increasing_access_to_quality_child_care_for_four_priority_populations_report_0.pdf
2. Costanzo, M. A. & Magnuson, K. (2019) How does disability influence child care arrangements for young children? An examination using the NHES ECPP. Children and Youth Services Review, Elsevier, vol. 99(C), pages 210-225.
3. Weglarz-Ward, J.M., Santos, R.M. & Timmer, J. Early Childhood Educ J (2019) 47: 163. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-018-0900-3>
4. Nova, C. (2020) The Child Care Crisis Disproportionately Affects Children With Disabilities. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2020/01/29/479802/child-care-crisis-disproportionately-affects-children-disabilities/>

Ohio Early Childhood Mental Health

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' [Early Childhood Mental Health](#) (ECMH) initiative is aimed at promoting healthy social and emotional development of young children (birth to six years). It focuses on ensuring these children thrive by addressing their behavioral health care needs.

The resources available include:

[Best Practice Videos](#). These videos illustrate some of best practices that will guide and inform professionals engaged in early child development, treatment and consultation.

[Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation](#). Consultants team with early childhood providers to help them understand and problem-solve challenging child behaviors, both in and out of the classroom. Services include on-site child/family-focused technical assistance to parents, teachers and staff, resources for parents, including art therapy, play therapy or physical health referrals and training and professional development. Consultants offer interventions for children and respond to the providers' programming needs, which include providing family enrichment activities and modeling helpful interactions with children.