



April 23-25, 2026  
Sandusky, OH

# Children with Disabilities, EI & Inclusion (EI-Early Intervention)

Made Possible By  ElevateDD

## The Ohio Early Childhood Conference | April 23-25, 2026 | Kalahari Resort | Sandusky, OH

**\*This entire track is DODD Credit Approved in the following areas:** EI Developmental Specialist/ Supervisor (EIDSS); EI Service Supervisor/ Coordinator (EISC); Service and Support Administration (SSA); and Superintendent (S).

### Thursday, April 23, 2026

8:30 am -10:00 am

#### **Pivotal Practices for Early Childhood: Creating Effective Practices to Support All Children**

Alexa Nunnari, Katie DeSmith & Jody Baile, Early Learning and Development Specialists, OCALI

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

#### **Bridging the Gap: Partnering Between Early Intervention and Child Care to Support Children with Disabilities**

Troy Hunter, President & CEO, ElevateDD & Dr. Kathy Lawton, Director of Early Childhood Education, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

#### **Navigating Tough Conversations: Addressing Developmental Concerns with Preschool Families**

Pamela Caruso, PD Caruso, LLC

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

#### **Equity and Inclusion in Schools... Invisible Barriers to Learning**

Joanie Calem, Music Educator and Inclusion Advocate, But First Do No Harm

### Friday, April 24, 2026

8:30 am -10:00 am

#### **From Possible to Practical: Supporting Children with Disabilities and Their Families in Child Care**

Troy Hunter, President & CEO, ElevateDD & Wendy Grove, Senior Research Advisor, Ohio Department of Children and Youth

8:30 am -10:00 am

#### **Aprendizaje Atravez Del Juego Para Estudiantes Neurodiversos De Edad Temprana**

Karen Miranda, Intervention Specialist, Navidad Pagan International Newcomers Academy, Cleveland Metro Schools

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

**Teaching PLAY: Engagement and Fun to Support Autistic Students in the Classroom**

Katie Scott, Training Director, The PLAY Project

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

**Supporting a Child's Unique Developmental Journey (0-3)**

Heather Knoble, Early Intervention Supervisor, Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities & Stephanie Bondra, Early Intervention Manager, Clearwater Council of Governments

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Enhancing Memory Retention and Learning Rates for STEAM Concepts: A Neurodevelopmental Approach (K-3)**

Maria Sargent, Professor, Department of Teacher Education, Ashland University

**Saturday, April 25, 2026**

8:30 am - 9:30 am

**Belonging in the Circle: Creating an Engaging and Inclusive Circle Time**

Megan Arnold, Community/Provider Education Coordinator & Heather Noble, Early Intervention Supervisor, Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

**Speech and Language Development**

Kimberly Ohl, Speech & Language Pathologist, Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

**The DEC Recommended Practices: How to Support Students with Special Needs in Your Classroom**

Elizabeth Diedrick, Intervention Specialist and Educational Consultant, Lorain City Schools