



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

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 & Wendy Grove, Senior Research Advisor, Ohio Department of Children and Youth

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