

PEP Early Childhood Plus

Building Skills That Will Last a Lifetime



PEP's years of experience in the early childhood arena give the agency unparalleled credibility when it comes to working with young children with challenging behaviors. These behaviors can create a barrier for children and their families, making life a challenge. PEP Early Childhood Plus helps families break down those barriers. By fostering strong partnerships between parents and staff, children and families are happier and more empowered.

Judy Dell'Aquila

*Coordinator of Elementary Special Education
Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools*

The development of solid social-emotional skills in young children is directly related to their success in school and in life. For more than thirty years, Positive Education Program (PEP) has been helping children build these skills. As a leader in early childhood education and mental health, PEP builds upon the strengths of the child, the family and other adults in their network to create opportunities for growth and success.

PEP Early Childhood Plus provides consultation, training and support to enhance the capacities of all caregivers working directly with young children presenting significant social, emotional, behavioral and/or developmental challenges. Through Early Childhood Plus, PEP builds skills and competencies in the adults who care for and nurture young children, thus helping the children themselves.

PEP Early Childhood Plus provides the following services:

- **Child Care Consultation** (formerly known as Day Care Plus)
- **Community-Based Consultation**
- **Technical Assistance in Cleveland Metropolitan School District Preschool Classrooms**
- **Professional Development & Training**

Early Childhood Plus
3100 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Phone: 216-361-4400
Fax: 216-361-8600

www.pepcleve.org



Child Care Consultation

A Special Needs Child Care Service

PEP Child Care Consultation provides consultation services and technical assistance to child care providers in Cuyahoga County and support for families with children experiencing difficulties in the child care setting. Working with staff, families and all agencies involved, consultants develop a seamless and effective child care experience for children ages birth through six who are experiencing social, emotional and behavioral difficulties in a group setting. The ultimate goal is to maintain children successfully in their child care placements.

This service has three primary objectives:

- To improve the social, behavioral and emotional functioning of at-risk children in child care;
- To increase the competencies of parents and caregivers of at-risk children in child care; and
- To increase the competencies of childcare staff.

Child Care Consultation is funded by Cuyahoga County's Invest in Children through Starting Point.

We have been able to continue to support children with challenging behaviors and special needs in the least restrictive environment thanks to the assistance of PEP Early Childhood Plus consultants. They have been an invaluable resource to our staff and families, improving our ability to help all of the children in our care.

Jennifer Boger
Executive Director, Kiddie City Child Care Community Inc.

Technical Assistance for CMSSD Preschool Classrooms

PEP Technical Assistance provides consultation, training and support services in CMSSD preschool classrooms. This service aims to equip teachers with advanced tools to help them become and feel more competent in serving children who present with significant social and emotional challenges.

This service has three primary goals which align with CMSSD's priorities:

- To improve the social, behavioral and emotional functioning of children in CMSSD's pre-school classrooms;
- To increase the competencies of CMSSD's pre-school teachers in helping children build social emotional skills;
- To strengthen the relationship between parents and the school.

This service is funded by United Way of Greater Cleveland.

Associated with Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County
Contract Provider of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board
of Cuyahoga County
Accredited by CARF: Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
A United Way Agency

Community-Based Consultation

PEP Community-Based Consultation is an Early Childhood Mental Health service that provides consultation, education and training to families, caregivers and professionals working with children with challenges. PEP consultants provide on-site and in-home consultation for families of children ages birth to six in Cuyahoga County who are at-risk for social, emotional or behavioral difficulties. These children may be exhibiting behaviors that prevent them from remaining in their current living, preschool or childcare setting.

This service is funded by Invest in Children through the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board and is conducted in partnership with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), all agencies of Cuyahoga County. Referrals are made primarily through DCFS and Help Me Grow but may come from other sources.

PEP Early Childhood Plus has been a positive resource for families and children served by Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). PEP consultants are readily available to provide valuable insight and recommendations of service for our families. Both the families served and social workers involved have benefited greatly from the expertise of PEP consultants. This partnership has been a valuable asset to DCFS and the families in Cuyahoga County.

Tamara Chapman-Wagner
Deputy Director, Cuyahoga County
Department of Children & Family Services

Professional Development & Training

A Race to the Top Early Childhood Mental Health Early Learning Challenge Grant

PEP Professional Development & Training helps early childhood professionals gain access to coordinated professional development opportunities and on-going supports that build their knowledge, competencies and skills for working with young children. Care givers of children considered high need defined by low income, diagnosis of disability and/or English Language Learners can access this service. Participating sites must be publically funded and participating (or expressing intent to participate) in Ohio's Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System.

Training and consultation focuses on two portions of the Ohio Early Learning Development Standards – Social-Emotional Development and Approaches to Learning. The central goal is to help professionals gain the necessary skills to observe, assess, reflect, plan and implement strategies that will prepare children for success in school and life.

Funding originates from the Federal Government and comes to Ohio through Ohio Department of Education to Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services then flows through the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County to PEP.