

Early experiences last a lifetime

Build Ohio is a collaborative of private and public partners. Together, members work to develop a comprehensive well-integrated early care and education system that:

- 1) Provides high quality services and supports in a variety of settings
- 2) Utilizes a well-trained and educated professional workforce
- 3) Is available and affordable to all families who want and need it
- 4) Prepares children for success in school and life.

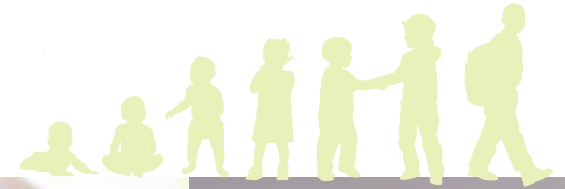
Chris Stoneburner, Project Director
chris@build-ohio.org
www.build-ohio.org

Build Ohio
958 Arcadia Boulevard
Westerville, Ohio 43082
614-212-2266



Parents
are a child's first and
most important teacher

You can help your child be successful in school and life by giving them the lifelong gift of self-confidence, good social and emotional skills, and a love for learning.



*You are your
child's first
teacher*

It's all about your children and the world you create for them.

New research on brain development has taught us that a child's early experiences are critical in learning how to communicate, make friends and control emotions.

Children's brains are like sponges, and what they learn in their first years carries a lifetime impact.

Did you know?

- 90% of brain growth occurs from birth to six years old.
- A child develops the ability to reason by the age of five.
- By the age of three, many children know 1100 words.

It's an honor and joy to be a parent.

The love and care you give your child helps shape who they become. It's an awesome responsibility.

- Parents give their children good nutrition and health care so they can grow and develop to their full potential.
- Parents answer their children's needs so they feel secure and can become confident and independent.
- Parents make sure their children play with other children and have positive relationships with other adults so they learn how to get along with others.
- Parents help their children explore the world around them so they can learn and discover in safe places.
- Parents sing, read and talk often with their children so they can learn how to communicate.

Early childhood development is very important. That's why state, non-profit and business organizations are advocating for high-quality early care and education for young children.



Make the world of discovery part of their day



Choosing a Program for Your Child.

Many young children spend all or part of their day in the care of someone other than their parents. Choosing the best place for your child can be stressful, there are so many issues to consider. Whether it's a family home or a center, here are some suggestions from the experts,

Ohio web sites that can help you

www.occrra.org - Information on child care in your community

www.ode.state.oh.us/ece/ - Ohio's Office of Early Learning and School Readiness

www.ohiohelpmegrow.org - Help Me Grow – a program for infants and toddlers

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/> - How to find child care in your community. Ohio's regulations.

- Be Informed – Know Ohio's regulations for safe and healthy programs by visiting the web sites on this page.
- Look – Visit several locations, stay and observe the program. Talk with parents.
- Listen – Listen for children's happy voices and for calm loving and encouraging teachers.
- Count – Make sure there are enough adults with each group of children.
- Ask – Ask questions about the program, curriculum and teachers' qualifications.

When you give your child a strong foundation, they start school with all the skills they need to be successful.

The truth is all children are born learning. The 2,000 days from birth until kindergarten are a remarkable time.

What can you do?

Make your voice heard.

- Participate in public discussions that let others know the critical importance of the early years in a child's life.
- Support more public investment in services that help parents in their role as their child's first teacher.
- Raise your voice for high quality, affordable programs for those who need and want them.
- Encourage community leaders to invest in safe playgrounds and parks for young children.
- Support local levies for libraries and zoos.
- Spend time observing your child's program.
- Participate in public private partnerships to create funding for affordable, quality early care and education for Ohio families.
- Educate policymakers, businesses and the public about the rapid brain development that occurs during the first years of life.

Learn more about the development of infants and toddlers and what you can do to nurture your child's growth

- Read, sing and talk to your child every day.
- Help your child safely explore the world around them.
- Visit the web sites listed in this brochure to learn more about early childhood learning.
- Join a local parent group.
- Take seminars or attend local programs that help parents learn about child development.

Get involved in your child's early care and education program

- Participate in parent meetings.
- Volunteer at your child's school.
- Talk to your child about their day.
- Meet with your child's teacher frequently to learn how your son or daughter is progressing.

