



September 29, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

Like our update today, I will keep my message short and sweet. We have provided information about the implementation of our Developmental Specialist certification rule, as well as a newly available training and a “Save the Date” for a 2027 Service Coordination Institute. I hope you are all enjoying the transition into the Autumn season and for those of you it is relevant, the beginning of the school year and all the activities that come with it!

Please feel free to reach out to me at Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov with ideas, questions, or suggestions any time.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Developmental Specialist Certification Rule

Activities for the five-year review of the EI Developmental Specialist Certification rule are complete. The implementation date has been moved by two weeks to October 15. With this implementation, the rule is moving into its official chapter at DCY, with the number 5180:8-1-05. In addition to renumbering and reformatting the rule into a question-and-answer format, and minor technical corrections and clarifications, the following updates have been made:

- Added “to infants and toddlers birth through age two” to clarify the definition of developmental specialist
- Added “functional” to clarify the definition of assessment
- Streamlined certification pathways by reducing one-year certification from two tracks to one and five-year certification from three tracks to two
- Removed all references to EI supervisor certification, as this certification is no longer applicable, ensuring the rule reflects current practice
- Updated the content area of “Team Collaboration” in the required seminars for the five-year credential to “Teaming and Collaboration in EI” to more clearly reflect the role of teaming within the early intervention process
- Adjusted the evidence-based practice coaching timeframe from a minimum of 12 months beginning within 6 months of hire to a minimum of 9 months beginning within 3 months of hire
- Removed provisions related to administrative review, background checks, and annual training that are addressed elsewhere in the Revised Code

Applicable resources and guidance related to the rule are being updated and will be available on the [Credentials and Certifications page](#) of the EI website in the coming weeks. Please reach out to ei@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov with questions any time.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Keeping the Infant in Mind Training

DCY is offering a webinar titled *Keeping the Infant in Mind* on December 3. Facilitated by Dr. Robert Gallen, this webinar will introduce attendees to theoretical aspects of helping families understand their young child's thoughts, feelings, and reactions and provide examples and resources for helping caregivers more calmly and sensitively respond to their child's emotional needs. This training is intended for EI professionals who work with young children and their families. Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) are approved for Early Intervention Service Coordinators (EISCs), EISC Supervisors, and Developmental Specialists. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information and registration instructions. Seats are limited for this training. Email eitraining@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov with any questions.

Save the Date for the Division of Early Childhood's 2027 EI Service Coordination Institute

The 2027 Division of Early Childhood (DEC) EI Service Coordination Virtual Institute will be held on April 22, 2027. This virtual event will bring together service coordinators, service coordination leaders, Part C administrators, and others from across the country to learn, connect, and share ideas that strengthen service coordination. Registration information is forthcoming, and we will share that information as soon as it is available.