



The Ohio State University Nisonger Center Early Childhood Services

Early Intervention



Welcome to Nisonger Center!

Nisonger Center has been providing quality services to people with disabilities and their families since 1966.

The goal of Nisonger Center's Early Childhood Services is to provide high-quality programs that meet your family's unique needs. **We know that families have different needs, and that your needs might change over time.** That is why our providers are able to offer services in any of the following locations:

- At our in-house child care program
- At your child's day care program
- In your home
- At other community locations of your choice

We believe that **relationships are extremely important** for young children. Because of this, we strive to:

- Work toward goals that are important for your family
- Include all of the important people in your child's life in early intervention programming
- Keep a consistent team of providers, even if your family moves between service types

We want to empower families to understand their child's unique strengths and needs, advocate for their child, and build a support network as they move through the early intervention system. Within our program framework, we value:

- Family-driven decision making
- Flexibility in service options to meet your needs
- Identifying and building on child and family strengths

The following pages describe our service options in detail and introduce you to our team of providers. We look forward to the opportunity to work with your child and family.

Our Services

Nisonger Early Childhood Services offers the following service options. Families can move among these options while keeping the same provider team.

Nisonger Center Child Care with Integrated Early Intervention



This program provides early intervention and special education services fully integrated into a child care environment. Children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old receive full-time child care alongside typically developing peers. Families are responsible for paying standard child care fees (reduced fees may be available depending on family need). Early Intervention or special education services are integrated into your child's daily care environment at no additional cost to the family.

Nisonger Child Care Center services may be right for your family if...

- Your child needs full-time child care (M-F, 7am-6pm)
- You would like your child's early intervention or special education services to be fully integrated in his/her child care environment
- Other child care centers have had difficulty supporting your child's needs
- You would like your child's typically developing siblings (ages 6 weeks-5 years) to receive care in the same center

Community and Home Based Services

Our home and community-based services provide early intervention in the places that your child spends time and needs support. This may include your home, your child's current day care, family members' homes, or other locations you choose. Our providers are particularly skilled at working within child care and classroom settings, and are happy to consult with your child's current care provider regularly. The



number and length of visits is tailored to your family's needs, but usually ranges from one time per week to one time per month.

Home and Community-Based services may be right for your family if...

- You would like to receive services in your home or at another community location (e.g., your child's current care provider)
- You or other adults in your child's life want to learn how to best support your child's needs
- You want to work with a small, close-knit team of providers who consult with each other frequently
- You are waiting for a space to open in another Nisonger program (e.g., child care program)

Half-Day Center-Based Early Intervention (2016-2017 ONLY)

Our center-based early intervention program provides classroom services for children aged 12 months to 3 years, and includes bus transportation for children who are at least 2 years old. Children attend classroom services 2 days per week for 2.5 hours each day. Families also interact with early intervention providers through home visits 1-2 times per month. Classroom services are provided from September through May.

Half-Day Center-Based services may be right for your family if...

- Your child is between the ages of 12 months and 36 months old
- You are interested in your child receiving a combination of services, some in a classroom settings and some during home visits
- You need bus transportation for your child (over 24 months of age) to attend the center-based program



Our Providers

Our small, close-knit team of highly qualified providers work with your child and family to meet your needs. Your family's service providers will be chosen from one of the specialists listed below, based on the match between provider expertise and your child and family's needs.

Alleiah Keeley, BS, Developmental Specialist



Alleiah received her bachelor's degree in special education and teaching license from Kent State University in 2012 and her Developmental Specialist certification in 2014. Alleiah has experience working with a diverse range of children birth-3 with delays and disabilities. She is currently working toward her behavior analyst certification and serves on the Ohio Division for Early Childhood's executive board as the President-Elect. Her priority is joining children and caregivers where they are naturally and providing support in that environment to ensure young children meet their potential, thus building a strong foundation for their preschool years and beyond.

Shaun Barrett, BS, Developmental Specialist



Shaun graduated from The Ohio State University in 2011 with his bachelor's degree in early childhood special education. Having a particular interest in behavioral science, Shaun is progressing through OSU's master's degree program in applied behavior analysis (ABA) and is looking to graduate in the summer of 2017. Shaun's desire to work with children with special needs is largely due to growing up with a brother with autism. Combining his own family experiences with the professional knowledge he has gained, Shaun feels confident addressing the needs of the whole family.

Bridget Tompkins, MA, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher



Bridget received her Master's degree in Special Education from Kent State University in 2015 and her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Bowling Green State University in 2013. She is licensed as a general education teacher and an early childhood intervention specialist, and also holds her developmental specialist certification. Bridget values blending strategies from her early childhood and special education background together to create an inclusive classroom for students.

Beth Gardner, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist

Beth graduated from the University of Toledo with a Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology in 2009. After graduation, she received



specialized training in diagnosing and treating children with autism spectrum disorder. She has training in PECS, Hanen-It Takes Two to Talk, and several picky eating intervention strategies. She particularly enjoys working with picky eaters and early language learners to decrease family stress and build parent confidence in successfully engaging their child at home and in the community. She also supervises Ohio State graduate speech students.

Logan Haines Blankemeyer, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist



Logan graduated from the University of Cincinnati with her Masters in speech-language pathology in 2013. She is a licensed speech-therapist and has been working with children with language delays, speech impairments, cognitive delays, and feeding & swallowing disorders for the past 3 years. Logan particularly specializes in working with children with feeding & swallowing disorders. She is passionate about airway protection, decreasing oral aversions, and transitioning off of feeding tubes.

Monica Snider, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist



Monica graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Occupational Therapy in 1985. She is a licensed Occupational Therapist and has been working with children ages 1-6 years with varying diagnoses for the past 25 years. She provides instruction, strategies and activities to parents at home and teachers in the classroom in the areas of fine motor, sensory processing and adaptive living skills. She has also supervised Occupational Therapy students from the Ohio State Occupational Therapy graduate program in the Nisonger ECE program.

Jennifer Wissinger, PT, DPT, PCS, Physical Therapist



Jen obtained her physical therapy degree from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in 2002 and has been a board certified specialist in physical therapy since 2008. As a clinician, she has practiced in public school districts, home health care, and Early Intervention. She has experience working with children with a variety of developmental delays and diagnoses. She also teaches and serves and a faculty mentor in Ohio State University's physical therapy program and serves on several boards of directors including the PT Section of the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Licensure Board for the State of Ohio and the Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy of the American Physical Therapy Association.

What are parents saying about our program?

Contact Us

If you have questions about our program, would like to take a tour of our facility, or are interested in Nisonger Center's Early Childhood Services, you can talk to your service coordinator, or contact us directly.

For general questions/inquiries:

Deanna Kropf, MS, Program Manager

Phone: 614-685-8601

E-mail: Deanna.kropf@osumc.edu

For questions about Nisonger Center Early Intervention Services:

Angie Alley, BS, Early Intervention Program Coordinator

Phone: 614-685-3203

E-mail: angela.alley@osumc.edu

For questions about the child care program or to arrange a tour:

Erica Gardner, BS, Child Care Program Assistant

Phone: 614-685-3191

E-mail: erica.gardner@osumc.edu

"At [my son with ASD's] previous daycare they were friendly, but...it felt like I was just sending [him] to daycare so that he could be watched while I was busy... [N]ow I feel like he is actually benefiting from daycare and learning skills. It is wonderful to know that he is around staff who are knowledgeable and interested in working with children with ASD."

-Mother of a two-year old boy enrolled in Nisonger Center Child Care

"When my daughter started attending Nisonger...she was speech delayed at 16 months, she didn't have words, and avoided messy play...[T]hey have helped her talk, she now says 3 word sentences and will touch many different objects...I have seen her blossom, from the wonderful care she receives from all the staff."

-Mother of a child enrolled in Nisonger Center half-day services

"I can't say enough positive things about the Faculty and Staff within the ECE Program...It's clear that Nisonger Center lives out its mission each and every day as it supports families and individuals at a critical time in life."

-Parent of a peer model, later diagnosed with ADHD