



PDG-Funded Efforts to Support the Early Childhood Workforce

The Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects is pleased to share progress on Preschool Development Grant (PDG) funded initiatives whose aim is to support early childhood caregivers and teachers in caring for and teaching young children. *Integrating Birth through Five* has two major components: caregiver coaching and the development of online training modules.

The Caregiver Coaching initiative is preparing Resource Center (RC) and Intermediate School District (ISD) key personnel to coach early childhood professionals to care for and teach young children with developmental delays and disabilities. It's a yearlong process that began this month and will result in the development of master mentor coaches who will be available at ISDs and RCs to support personnel in the successful inclusion of young children with IFSP and IEPs.

In addition, through PDG-funded research, including surveys and meetings with child care providers, Resource Center staff, ISD personnel, and families, we have gathered information and stories that indicate a critical need to clarify the process for referral and eligibility, provide clear descriptions of available services, and promote practices that empower teachers to feel confident and competent in their ability to support all children. CCRESA OIP, in collaboration with stakeholders, is in the process of developing *All Together: Caring for Children with Delays and Disabilities*, a series of four online modules to support the early childhood workforce so that they have access to resources and strategies for young children with disabilities in their care. Four modules with the following topics will be produced by the end of 2022:

1. An Overview of *Early On*[®] and Build Up
2. Caring for infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities
3. Teaching preschoolers with delays and disabilities
4. Collaborating for inclusion

Modules will be available in English, Spanish and Arabic, along with accompanying resources. Modules will be accessible to all early childhood educators in Michigan and made available on the [EOTTA CCRESA website](http://eotta.ccreesa.org) (<http://eotta.ccreesa.org>).

MiRegistry training hours and Michigan's State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH) will also be available, pending approval.

The *Integrating Birth through Five* initiative is administered by Clinton County Regional Educational Services Agency, Office of Innovative Projects, funded through the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five, under the direction of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start. To learn more about this initiative, contact [Kari Holmberg at holmberg k@ccresa.org](mailto:k@ccresa.org).