

Early Childhood and School Readiness

Early Learning & School Readiness Coordinator

Merrie Darrah

Merrie Darrah is the SST 4 Early Learning and School Readiness Coordinator. Merrie has been in the field of early childhood education for more than 20 years both in districts and state resource agencies. She has a M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Cleveland State University and is a licensed School Psychologist.



Merrie serves as a resource for parents, teachers, agency staff, and administrators by providing support, and technical assistance regarding state and federal mandates, compliance, professional development, and program administration. She works with leadership and staff from early learning and childcare programs, including Head Start, Preschool Special Education, Early Childhood Education (formerly Public School Preschool), and community-based child-care programs.

ELSR specialized work focuses in the area of improving results for young children including:

- Transition from IDEA Part C to preschool and preschool to kindergarten
- Using data for program, classroom and individual planning
- Tiered interventions for young children in academic and S/E development
- Curriculum and instruction for high-quality programming
- Compliance with federal and state special education laws and regulations
- Implementation of Interagency Agreements of services to preschoolers with disabilities
- Support in IMPACT document and ODE licensing
- Program evaluation, classroom observations, child assessments & screening
- PD, PLCs and support in GGG, ASQ S/E, Special Quest, CSEFEL, Inclusion, RTI



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