



Department of Developmental Disabilities  
Division of Policy and Strategic Direction

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jeff Davis, Director

January 14, 2019

Dr. Richard Solomon, Medical Director  
Ann Arbor Center for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics  
3031 Miller Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Dear Dr. Solomon:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for The PLAY Project, an autism early intervention program the state of Ohio has now formally implemented for the last 8 years in nearly 70 of the state's 88 counties.

One of our primary purposes in selecting The PLAY Project years ago was that it not only emphasized the social-emotional development of young children with autism, but it also promoted positive relationships for parents, their children and the family as a whole. As a parent-implemented model, our trained PLAY Project Consultants are equipping and empowering *parents* to cultivate and foster their child's growth and skills, not just the professional. The PLAY Project allows our providers to take a targeted, high-quality intensive autism intervention and marry it to our existing Early Intervention program, ultimately enabling both the family and the child to flourish in a natural environment with the necessary supports.

We currently have approximately 110 trained PLAY Project Consultants scattered throughout the state. Many of them express overwhelming support and gratitude for the PLAY Project, as they see first-hand the progress children make because of the model. One Consultant stated, "I love helping parents recognize and celebrate little gains that add up to big gains! A parent recently told me, 'I feel like I *know* my soul now.'"

We know much is at stake in the lives of young children with autism and we know time is of the essence; the data shows the earlier and the more intensive the intervention, the more likely the trajectory of a child's life can be changed for the better. We have seen this happen with families and children in the state of Ohio who have benefitted from the PLAY Project. Our children, our families, and ultimately our state, are better because of it.

Please feel free to contact me or our PLAY in Ohio Project Coordinator, Courtney Yantes at 614.410.0954 or [Courtney\\_Yantes@ocali.org](mailto:Courtney_Yantes@ocali.org) with any questions about our experience with statewide dissemination of The PLAY Project.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Hauck  
Deputy Director