



Early Childhood Resource Center

Promoting the Healthy Development of Young Children

With the belief that all children can be successful in education and life given the opportunity, the Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC) is dedicated to the healthy development of young children and supporting the growth of families as a whole.

ECRC serves as a resource and referral agency for a multi-county region to ensure quality early child care, promotes kindergarten readiness through the SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) program, and provides fatherhood and foster care support, among other services.

By the Numbers in 2026

- **1,624** children served statewide through the SPARK kindergarten readiness program, with **13,280** in-home visits
- **14,170** books distributed through the SPARK program
- **400+** dads received fatherhood services
- **378** families assisted in finding quality child care
- **2,601** early childhood educators attended **501** trainings offered by ECRC staff
- **7,010** technical assistance sessions delivered to child care providers
- **717** child care programs served in a **6**-county region

Addressing Critical Needs for Children

Rooted in the legacy of compassion of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, ECRC was founded in 2000, following a community needs assessment led by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton. ECRC was established to address a critical need for accessible, high-quality child care and early learning opportunities in Stark County, Ohio. Since then, ECRC has grown significantly, while remaining committed to supporting young children and all those who care for them. Together with partners, ECRC is helping families have the knowledge and resources to



nurture their children's development, supporting high-quality early learning environments led by skilled professionals, and ensuring children enter school ready to learn and thrive.

Mission in Action

The Early Childhood Resource Center reflects the Catholic Social Teaching that every child possesses God-given dignity. By improving the quality of early learning experiences, increasing school readiness and informing public policy, ECRC strengthens families and helps children flourish in the love of God and neighbor.

9.10.26

Note: figures in the "By the Numbers" section are from fiscal year 2026