

Workshop Title and Description:

Writing Meaningful and Legally Defensible IEP's within a Data-Driven Decision-Making Framework

This workshop will support early childhood direct service providers who work with children eligible for Part B services to write meaningful and legally defensible IEPs. Utilizing the five step data-driven decision-making (DDDM) framework, participants will be introduced to best practice principles for gathering, documenting, summarizing, analyzing, and interpreting information to guide the development and/or revision of IEPs. The session will include a particular focus on how to use data to develop IEP worthy goals that are legally defensible; participants will examine IEP goals and consider their meaningfulness for individual children by determining the extent to which goals meet the four IEP filters, are functional, and can be measured meaningfully.

Presenter: Ashley Lyons, M.Ed.



As a doctoral candidate, researcher, instructor, consultant, coach, parent of children with special needs and an advocate, Ashley is dedicated to exploring and identifying solutions to the complex issues that face the fields of early intervention and early childhood special education (EI/ECSE). Having benefited from an education and work experience in the field of special education, and subsequently raising children that are twice exceptional, Ashley has a strong and unique perspective that she brings to her research, delivery of pre-service and in-service professional development, and advocacy. Ashley previously served as the Division for Early Childhood Children's Action Network Coordinator, Chair of the DEC Policy and Advocacy Council, and as CAN Coordinator for the Ohio subdivision of DEC. She currently teaches a course on developing meaningful IEPs for the

University of Alaska Anchorage, is an adjunct at Kent State University, and is a consultant for a variety of education-related projects, with a focus on assessment, IEPs, and educational leadership in early childhood. Ashley is passionate about advocating for young children with exceptionalities and their families with a focus on systems-level changes that will improve the funding, implementation, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for all young children.