

## Office of the Director

John R. Kasich, Governor John L. Martin, Director

August 1, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for The P.L.A.Y. (Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters) Project (P.L.A.Y.), an autism early intervention program that the state of Ohio has implemented in 35 counties.

Over the past three years, approximately 130 Early Intervention providers have been trained in P.L.A.Y. as part of a state-wide initiative to provide the early diagnosis and intervention that is essential for helping children with autism reach their full potential.

The P.L.A.Y. Project parent-training model fits easily into our existing home visiting program and allows our Early Intervention professionals to provide high quality intensive intervention to children on the autism spectrum in the limited time they have with families.

We have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from professionals and families involved in the program. Our Early Intervention specialists have found the training and supervision process to be valuable and the model to be practical and effective. Parents have told me directly how much the program has changed their relationship with their child and has helped their child to grow.

I have found Dr. Richard Solomon M.D., and his team of trainers to be enthusiastic, supportive, and well organized throughout our implementation of the model. Please feel free to contact me or our Project Director, Molly Kurtz at 740-334-3116 or molly.kurtz@dodd.ohio.gov with any questions about our experience with state-wide dissemination of The P.L.A.Y. Project.

Sincerely.

John L. Martin

Director