

Positive Education Program

Presentation for
Lorain County Partners

October 2014



Our History

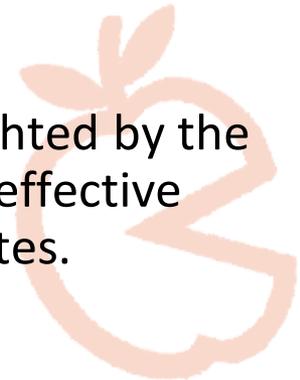
In 1971, Positive Education Program was created in consultation with area school districts to help them serve their most challenging students. Initially, PEP functioned as a consulting organization, but quickly it became apparent that districts needed specialized centers dedicated to meeting the educational needs of their most troubled and troubling students.

In 1975, PEP opened its first Day Treatment Center providing a blended educational and mental health program. Since then, PEP has grown in size and scope, now operating [seven Day Treatment Centers, Early Childhood Plus, Connections and PEP Assist.](#)



National and Local Recognition

- In 1996, the U.S. Department of Education identified PEP's Day Treatment Centers as one of the six best special education programs in the country.
- In 2000, the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice identified PEP's Day Treatment Centers as an outstanding example of a results-based program providing intensive interventions to troubled students.
- In 2003, the Woodruff Foundation awarded PEP the Woodruff prize, an award given annually to one local organization to recognize excellence in mental health services.
- In 2007, PEP Day Treatment services were highlighted by the American Institutes for Research as one of three effective alternative education programs in the United States.

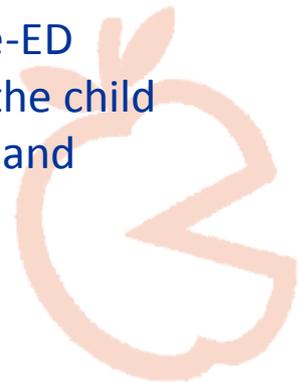


Programmatic Philosophy

Our work with children and families is grounded in the Principles of Re-EDucation (**Re-ED**) and **The Sanctuary Model**.

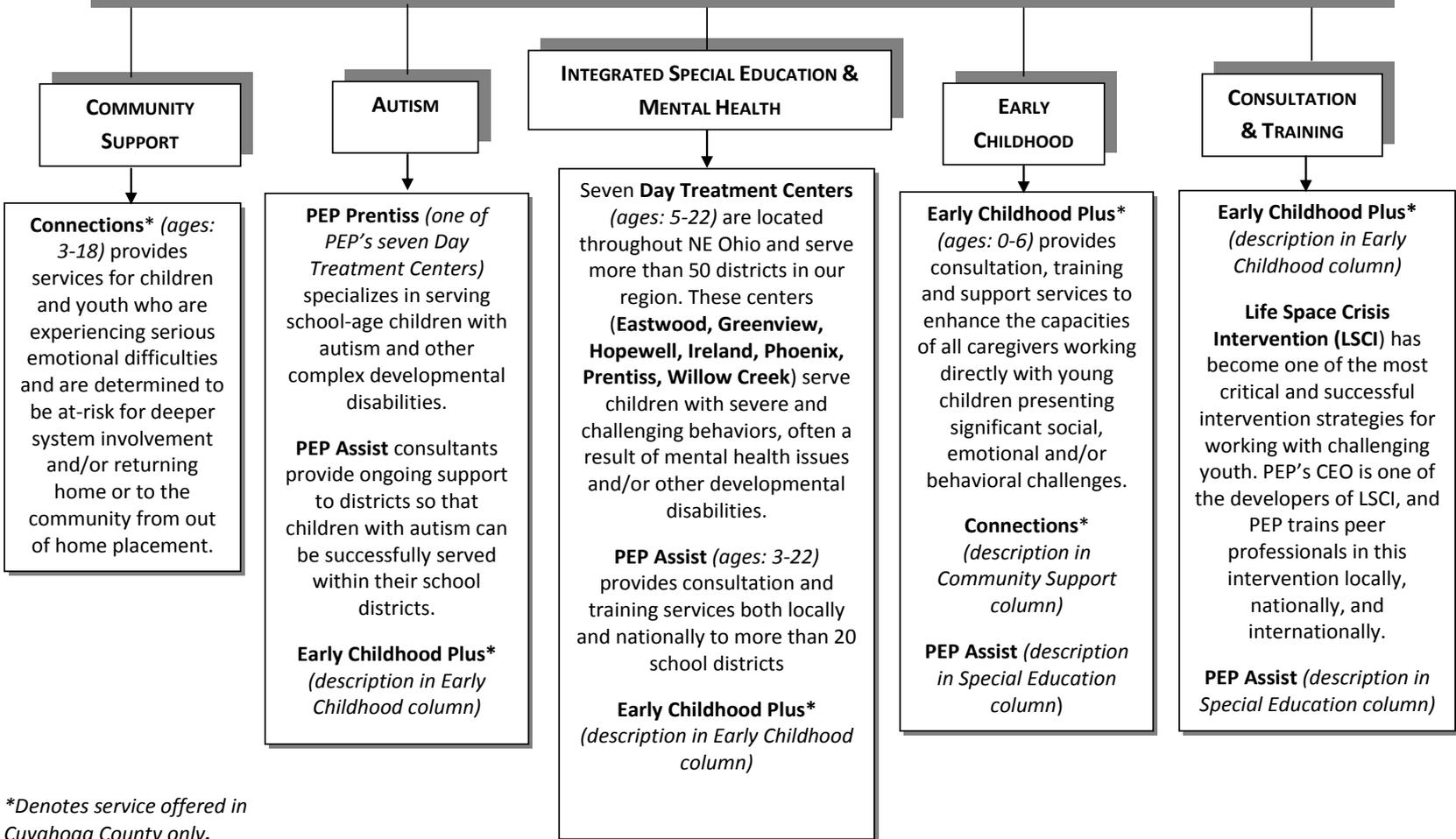
- **Re-ED**, a child and family-centered approach to care for children and youth facing mental health challenges, is an open paradigm that accentuates the strengths within each individual.
- **The Sanctuary Model** creates a safe, nurturing therapeutic environment that supports children and youth impacted by trauma. It helps them reorganize their self-defeating beliefs and instills hope for the future.

A cornerstone of PEP's success and key principle of the Re-ED philosophy is the emphasis on developing trust between the child and adult. Sanctuary informs the subtleties of developing and enhancing that meaningful therapeutic alliance.





Since 1971, Positive Education Program has helped troubled and troubling children learn and grow. It started as a small consulting organization established to help schools create strategies to work with their most challenging students. Today, PEP operates many programs including seven Day Treatment Centers, Early Childhood Plus, Connections, and PEP Assist. With a staff more than 500 caring and competent professionals and a budget exceeding \$40 million, PEP impacts the lives of 2,500 children and their families annually.



*Denotes service offered in Cuyahoga County only.

Day Treatment Centers

- Positive Education Program's Day Treatment Centers serve school-age children and youth who have been diagnosed with an emotional disturbance in an integrated educational and mental health environment. These centers serve as both the school and the therapeutic treatment center for these children and youth.
- PEP's seven centers – **Eastwood, Greenview, Hopewell, Ireland, Phoenix, Prentiss Autism Center, and Willow Creek** – are located throughout Northern Ohio and have the ability to serve children with multiple disabilities.



Center Leadership

PEP Willow Creek is led by:

- Nancy Gecking, Program Coordinator;
- Mary Bonamer, Clinical Supervisor;
- Wendy Faircloth, Assistant Coordinator;
- Kristine Holland, Clinical Associate.



Center Staffing

- Classroom teams are made up of a teacher-counselor, an associate teacher-counselor and team associate. Each classroom has no more than 10 students.
- PEP Willow Creek has a full-time nurse, office staff, a speech/language pathologist, and access to psychiatric consultative services.
- Each child is assigned a case manager who becomes the primary liaison between the center and the family.



Training

- Staff members are intensively and regularly trained and equipped with the skills to provide a safe and nurturing environment for students.
- PEP underwent an intensive 3-year process which resulted in PEP becoming one of largest organizations to be certified as trauma-informed.
- PEP's size provides for economies of scale, allowing it to expend resources to develop and train its staff to utilize new, cutting edge academic and therapeutic interventions.



Funding for PEP DTCs

- Funding comes from the school districts, Medicaid and community mental health.
- School districts pay tuition for each enrolled student.
- Primary mental health services include Partial Hospitalization and Community Psychiatric Support Treatment.



Our Constant Challenge

The constant challenge is to design a daily program so engaging so varied and new yet orderly and stable...so meshed with the growth of the child's mind, so rich in human interchange...filled with success in matters small and large, so unconcerned with failure, so appreciative of individuality and of common purpose...so joyous so aware...that the disturbed child finds himself immediately committed to a new way of living at once more satisfying to himself and more satisfactory to the people in his life.

- Nicholas Hobbs, Ph.D.

