

WV Birth to Three Foundations of Coaching Families Through the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM)

Format: Four sessions live Zoom workshop + optional self-guided learning

Presenter: **Laurie A. Vismara, Ph.D., BCBA-D, R.B.A.** (Ont.) is an autism specialist and co-developer/author of the ESDM coaching and Infant Start models, as well as a contributor to the ESDM training-to-certification programs. Her background as a researcher, clinician, and coach gives her unique insight into working closely with parents and early childhood professionals who wish to learn more about this early, evidence-based intervention approach to autism.

Audience: Early childhood professionals

Class Size: Limited to 10 participants

Prerequisites: No prior ESDM experience or certification required

Workshop Overview

This four-session virtual workshop introduces early childhood professionals to the foundations of coaching families through the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM). Through a blend of group learning, guided reflection, and optional self-directed practice, participants will build both conceptual understanding and practical coaching skills they can apply immediately with families.

Professionals will be encouraged (but not required) to practice each topic directly with families between sessions and bring back examples of their coaching experiences. These reflections will support individualized guidance, deepen learning, and strengthen participants' confidence in applying ESDM aligned coaching strategies.

The workshop emphasizes a supportive, safe learning environment where participants can explore, practice, reflect, and problem solve collaboratively.

What This Workshop Does *Not* Provide

This workshop does **not**: result in, replace, or serve as a substitute for:

- The **Introductory ESDM Parent Coaching Workshop**
- Eligibility to apply for **ESDM Parent Coaching Certification**
- Eligibility to apply for the **ESDM Apprentice Trainer Pathway**

Participation offers foundational learning and practice opportunities, but it does **not** confer certification, endorsement, or advancement within the formal ESDM training program.

I understand that if I am selected as a participant in the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) Training, I am committing to the following:

- **Optional Independent Learning (Pre work + Between Sessions)**
 - A 40-minute welcome and orientation video to complete before Session 1
 - One to two hours of self-guided learning options after each Zoom session
- **Wednesday, May 06, 2026 - 1:00–4:00 PM EST - Zoom Session 1 - ESDM coaching strategies** for supporting families in enhancing children's early social communication skills through interactive, relationship-based routines.
- **Wednesday, May 20, 2026 - 1:00–4:00 PM EST - Zoom Session 2 - Parent motivation and engagement** through ESDM coaching principles. Focus on empowering parents as adult learners and partners in their child's early intervention or education program.
- **Wednesday, June 3, 2026 - 1:00–4:00 PM EST - Zoom Session 3 - Coaching language, actions, and session structure** used with families to facilitate effective, meaningful interactions.
- **Wednesday, June 17, 2026 - 1:00–3:00 PM EST - Zoom Session 4 - Coaching variations, cultural considerations, and ongoing practice**, including self-guided learning activities to support continued growth beyond the workshop