

## WHY DLS?

The original concept of the DLS program was to break the pattern of abuse and neglect by going into the home, work directly with the family and teach skills that society has taken for granted these families possess, but in fact had not been transferred to the client by the generation before them. Ruby Payne referred to these as “the hidden rules” in her book, *Bridges Out of Poverty* (1998). At risk families often lack positive role models, and are at the bottom of a ladder without rungs. The DLS program is designed to replace the “rungs in the ladder”, basic living skills, to enable at-risk families to improve their quality of life and make healthier choices. The DLS programs’ central hypothesis is that when a family is not operating at its optimal level as a result of the lack of basic skill development, the stress produced by this disharmony can contribute to child abuse and neglect through displacement.



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**Ohio State University Extension, Butler County**

1802 Princeton Road, Suite 400  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011  
Phone: 513-887-3722  
Fax: 513-887-3726

Visit us online at: [butler.osu.edu](http://butler.osu.edu)



Find us on Facebook OSU Extension, Butler County

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: [go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity](http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity).

OSU EXTENSION, BUTLER COUNTY

# Development of Living Skills



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

---

*“DLS assisted the client with communicating with adults to effectively manage her health, resources and age appropriate expectations for the girls.”*

*-BCCS Caseworker*

---

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Development of Living Skills Program (DLS) began in 1985 with a grant from the Butler County Children Service's Levy. The program is a comprehensive in-home educational intervention system designed for families at risk for child abuse and/or neglect. The goal of the program is to build healthy families through teaching daily living skills to parents who are at-risk. Through the intensive in-home, hands-on approach, families not only learn what is needed to keep their children out of the foster care system, but are also observed putting the learned skills into action. With this educational opportunity, families can break the cycle of displacement and dysfunction and provide a safe, nurturing home for their children to grow; impacting future generations.



## HOW DOES DLS WORK?

- Referrals are received from Butler County Children Services either as court ordered or voluntary.
- Educational lessons are presented weekly in the client's home.
- Core lessons are presented in Parenting and Child Development, Home Sanitation, Home Safety, Food and Nutrition, Money Management, Development of Personal Resources, Health and Hygiene, Conflict Management and Resolution.
- Lesson plans are developed based on individual needs and parent/child interactions.
- The majority of families complete the program in 5 to 6 months.
- DLS Instructors provide documentation to caseworkers and the Butler County Juvenile Court that are used to evaluate the client's progress.



---

*“I like how my case was not generalized but instead looked at me specifically & what I needed to work on. “*

*-DLS Client*

---

## DLS PROGRAM STAFF

- Genesis Hawker, A.A.S., NDTR, DLS Coordinator/Instructor
- Jane Behari, A.A., FDC, DLS Instructor
- Nina Solomon, B.S., DLS Instructor

---

The DLS mission is to provide current evidenced based research to help parents in their responsibilities to protect their children and to prepare their children with the life skills necessary for adulthood: Cooperation, Self-Compassion, Responsibility and Courage.