

## PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY

**Name: Melissa C. Courts, B.A.**  
**Title: Healthy Child Care Ohio/ECCS Coordinator**  
**Organization: Ohio Department of Health**  
**Address: 246 North High Street**  
**City: Columbus State: OH Zip Code: 43215**  
**Phone: (614) 728-6782**  
**Email: melissa.courts@odh.ohio.gov**

Melissa Courts is currently the Healthy Child Care Ohio (HCCO) Coordinator and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Coordinator with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Prior to coming to ODH in 2002, she spent 12 years as a child care licensing specialist and trainer for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Child Care and Development (BCCD). Melissa works on multiple early childhood system projects, establishing linkages between the health and early care and education communities. She oversees the contract for the HCCO child care health consultant network, works closely BCCD staff on rule and policy revisions and serves as a liaison between health and child care for multiple initiatives. Most recently she collaborated on Buckeye Best for Child Care, a pilot project lead by Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to address obesity, nutrition and physical activity in child care.

Melissa received a B.A. in psychology from the College of Wooster and completed graduate work in early childhood at the Ohio State University. She is a graduate of the National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She serves as an advocate for children in her personal as well as professional life, promoting health and safety through volunteer work with child care programs and schools. Melissa and her husband are the parents of eight-year-old twins and experienced consumers of child care.