

C A L I F O R N I A

EARLY START



*With Early Start... We make a difference*

**The Need for Early Intervention**

- ▶ Each year nearly 500,000 babies are born in California.
- ▶ Of all individuals served by the developmental services system, 11.4 percent are birth to 3 years old (DDS Fact Book, 13th Edition, 2016).
- ▶ Forty-six percent of persons entering the developmental services system were younger than 2 years of age (DDS Fact Book, 13th Edition, 2016).
- ▶ Each year, California Early Start serves more than 36,000 children under the age of 3 (DDS, 2014).

**Early Intervention Is Effective**

Decades of rigorous research show that children's earliest experiences play a critical role in brain development (Center for the Developing Child at Harvard University), including:

- ▶ High quality early intervention services can change a child's developmental trajectory and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.
- ▶ Services to young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays have been shown to positively affect outcomes across developmental domains, including health, language and communication, cognitive development, and social and emotional development.

**Early Intervention Saves Money**

- ▶ Research has shown that early intervention with young children with disabilities, from birth to age 5, has multiple benefits to society including reducing the economic burden through a decreased need for special education (Hebbeler, 2009).
- ▶ Intervention is likely to be more effective and less costly when it is provided earlier in life rather than later (Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, 2010).



800.515.BABY  
[www.dds.ca.gov/  
earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart)

## CALIFORNIA

# EARLY START



### *With Early Start... We make a difference*

**E**arly Start is California's system of early intervention services provided to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. It is a multiagency effort by the Department of Developmental Services and the California Department of Education that encourages partnerships between families and professionals, family support, and coordination of services. The statewide system of early intervention services is available throughout California and can be accessed through regional centers for developmental disabilities, county offices of education, local school districts, health or social service agencies, and family resource centers/networks in your community.

An important part of Early Start is the network of family resource centers (FRCs) that provide parent-to-parent contact, information about disabilities and early intervention, and assistance in accessing services. Phone contact, home or hospital visits, and support groups are all ways in which families might connect with experienced, knowledgeable parent "peers" through their local FRC.

### *What are early intervention services?*

Early intervention services are provided based on the developmental needs of the child, the concerns and priorities of the family, and the resources available to them. Services are provided within the context of the child's and family's daily activities and routines. Eligible children and families may receive a variety of early intervention services; some children may need only one or two early intervention services. Early intervention services may include:

- ▶ assistive technology, including devices or services
- ▶ audiology or hearing services
- ▶ family training, counseling, and home visits
- ▶ health services necessary for a child to benefit from other early intervention services
- ▶ medical services for diagnosis and evaluation only
- ▶ nursing services
- ▶ nutrition services
- ▶ occupational therapy
- ▶ physical therapy
- ▶ psychological services
- ▶ service coordination (case management)
- ▶ social work services
- ▶ special instruction
- ▶ speech and language services
- ▶ transportation and related costs necessary for a child to receive services
- ▶ vision services



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*Who is eligible?*

Infants and toddlers from birth to age 36 months may be eligible for early intervention services through Early Start if, through documented evaluation and assessment, they meet one of the criteria listed below:

- Have a developmental delay of at least 33 percent in one or more areas of either cognitive, communication, social or emotional, adaptive, or physical and motor development including vision and hearing; or
- Have an established risk condition of known etiology, with a high probability of resulting in delayed development; or
- Are considered to be at high risk of having a substantial developmental disability due to a combination of biomedical risk factors, which are diagnosed by qualified personnel.

*What is the definition of "developmental delay"?*

A developmental delay exists if there is a significant difference between an infant's or toddler's current level of functioning and the expected level of development for his or her age in one of the five developmental areas: cognitive; physical, including fine and gross motor, vision, and hearing; communication; social or emotional; or adaptive.

- A "significant" difference is defined as a 33-percent delay in one or more developmental areas.
- This determination must be made by qualified personnel who are recognized by, or part of, a multidisciplinary team that includes the parents.

*Who provides services and supports?*

Early intervention services are individually determined for each eligible infant or toddler and are provided, purchased, or arranged by a regional center or local education agency. Local education agencies are primarily responsible for services for infants with vision, hearing, and severe orthopedic impairments, including any combination of these solely low incidence disabilities. Regional centers are responsible for services for all other children eligible for Early Start. Family resource centers that receive Early Start funding provide parent-to-parent support, information, and referral for all families.

*How much does it cost?*

There is no cost for evaluation, assessment, and service coordination. Early Start is funded by state and federal funds. Costs may be incurred for services under the Family Cost Participation Program, the Annual Family Program Fee, and insurance costs for medical therapies.

*Are other services available?*

Yes. The California Departments of Health Care Services, Public Health, Mental Health, Social Services, and Alcohol and Drug Programs are state agencies that provide services and resources that may be of benefit to children and their families. Each agency determines eligibility for the services that it provides.



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C A L I F O R N I A

# EARLY START

## *Does early intervention make a difference?*

Decades of rigorous research have shown that:

- Services to young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays positively impact outcomes across developmental domains, including health, language and communication, cognitive development, and social and emotional development;
- High quality early intervention services can change a child's developmental trajectory and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities;
- Families benefit from early intervention by being able to better meet their children's needs from an early age and throughout their lives.

(Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, 2008 and 2010; American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2008; McLean & Cripe, 1997; Ward, 1999; Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, 2007; Hebbeler et al., 2007; Hebbeler, 2009; Landa et al., 2010; Bailey et al., 2005)

## *How do I get more information?*

Visit DDS' Early Start website at [www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart) or call 800.515.BABY for resource information and referral to local regional centers, education agencies, and family resource centers.



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## *With Early Start... We make a difference*

California has a long history of providing early intervention services under prior state statutes and regulations. Infant services in public schools were started in the 1960s and 1970s using a variety of local, state, and federal funding sources. California state law, since 1980, has mandated early education programs for many infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities.

### FEDERAL LAW

#### *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C*

California's Early Start system of early intervention services was enhanced in response to federal legislation authorizing states to maintain and implement statewide interagency systems of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities was enacted in 1986 and reauthorized in 2004 under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA; 20 U.S.C., §1431 et seq.). Federal regulations, finalized in 2011, are found in 34 CFR, Part 303.1-303.654.

### STATE LAW

#### *California Early Intervention Services Act*

After six years of state and local interagency planning and coordination, the State Legislature passed the California Early Intervention Services Act in 1993 (CEISA; 14 G.C., §95000 et seq.). CEISA established state authority to expand California's early intervention service system to meet federal requirements. The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS), as the Part C lead agency, plans, develops, implements, and monitors the statewide early intervention service system in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE) and with advice and assistance from the State Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention. The Departments of Health Care, Public Health, Social Services, Mental Health, and Alcohol and Drug Programs cooperate and coordinate with DDS and CDE in the delivery of services to children under the age of 3 and their families.

CEISA was amended in 1997 to acknowledge the provision of family support services by Early Start family resource centers such as parent-to-parent support, information dissemination and referral, public awareness, family-professional collaboration activities, and transition assistance for families.

In July 1997, the California Legislature requested that DDS convene a workgroup to examine relevant information and to develop recommendations related to the impact of implementing federal regulations under IDEA, Part C. Based on the Workgroup's recommendations, CEISA was amended in 1998 to address state coordination and collaboration with families and communities, service coordinator competencies and caseloads, evaluation and assessment, parents' rights, monitoring, and referral to local Early Start family resource centers.

A major milestone for Early Start occurred in 1999. California's original legislative agreement for implementation of the Part C program provided for a date when the program would cease to exist or "sunset." That date was eliminated in the 1999 legislative session when the Legislature conferred permanent status to Early Start.

State regulations pertaining to Early Start are found in Title 17, CCR, §§52000-52175.



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CALIFORNIA

EARLY START

ICC  
Interagency Coordinating  
Council on Early Intervention

*With Early Start... We make a difference*

**MISSION  
STATEMENT**

**The mission of the ICC is to promote and enhance a coordinated family service system for infants and toddlers, birth to 36 months who have or are at risk of having a disability, and their families, utilizing and encouraging a family-centered approach, family-professional partnerships, and interagency collaboration.**

The State Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention assists and advises the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) concerning the statewide system of early intervention services and assists DDS in achieving the full participation, cooperation, and coordination of appropriate public agencies that serve young children and their families. The ICC also serves as a forum for public input from parents, service providers, service coordinators, and others about federal, State, or local policies that support the timely delivery of appropriate early intervention services.

ICC members are appointed by the Governor. The council is comprised of parents of children with disabilities, early intervention service providers, health care professionals, state agency representatives, and others interested in early intervention. In addition, the ICC Chair may appoint additional community representatives to provide increased participation of parents, providers, and other interested parties. The ICC meets at least quarterly.

For a complete list of ICC members, please visit [www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart).



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# Regional Centers

**C A L I F O R N I A**

# EARLY START



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Infants and toddlers, from birth up to 36 months, with developmental delays or disabilities may be eligible to receive services through California's 21 community-based regional centers. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) contracts with non-profit corporations that operate regional centers.

Regional centers are the single point of entry into the service system that serves people with developmental disabilities across all ages. Regional centers provide intake, evaluation, and assessment to determine eligibility and service needs. They also provide service coordination, advocacy, information, referral, and an array of other services to eligible infants and toddlers and their families.

Early intervention services are provided, purchased, or arranged by regional centers based on the unique needs of the child and family. Early intervention services that are not available through other publicly funded agencies are generally purchased from community service providers who are "vendored" by the regional center. In specific communities, some regional centers contract with local education agencies (LEAs) to provide special instruction and other related early intervention services through their early childhood special education programs to children served by regional centers.

Regional centers coordinate with LEAs and other local agencies and organizations in evaluation, assessment, development of individualized family service plans and service provision. For children who are dually served by a regional center and an LEA, basic special education and related services are usually provided by the LEA. Either LEAs or regional centers may be designated to provide service coordination. The regional center may also provide additional early intervention services or other available State services based on the needs of the child and family.



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# CALIFORNIA EARLY START

## Regional Centers by County

### REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** Eureka  
**Field Offices:** Crescent City, Fort Bragg, Lakeport, Ukiah

### NORTH BAY REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** Napa  
**Field Office:** Santa Rosa

### GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** San Francisco  
**Field Offices:** Marin, San Mateo

### REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY

**Main Office:** Oakland  
**Field Office:** Concord

### SAN ANDREAS REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** Campbell  
**Field Offices:** Gilroy, Salinas, Watsonville

### TRI-COUNTIES REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** Santa Barbara  
**Field Offices:** Atascadero, Oxnard, San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Simi Valley

### LOS ANGELES

*(Listing on back)*

### REGIONAL CENTER OF ORANGE COUNTY

**Main Office:** Santa Ana  
**Field Offices:** Orange, Irvine, Westminster

### FAR NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** Redding  
**Field Offices:** Chico, Shasta, Susanville, Lake Almanor

### ALTA CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** Sacramento  
**Field Offices:** Auburn, Grass Valley, Placerville, Roseville, South Lake Tahoe, Woodland, Truckee, Yuba City

### VALLEY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** Stockton  
**Field Offices:** Modesto, San Andreas, Salida

### CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** Fresno  
**Field Offices:** Merced, Visalia

### KERN REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** Bakersfield  
**Field Offices:** Bishop, Delano, Lamont, Ridgecrest, Shafter, Taft, Tehachapi

### INLAND REGIONAL CENTER

**Main Office:** San Bernardino  
**Field Office:** Riverside

### SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CENTER

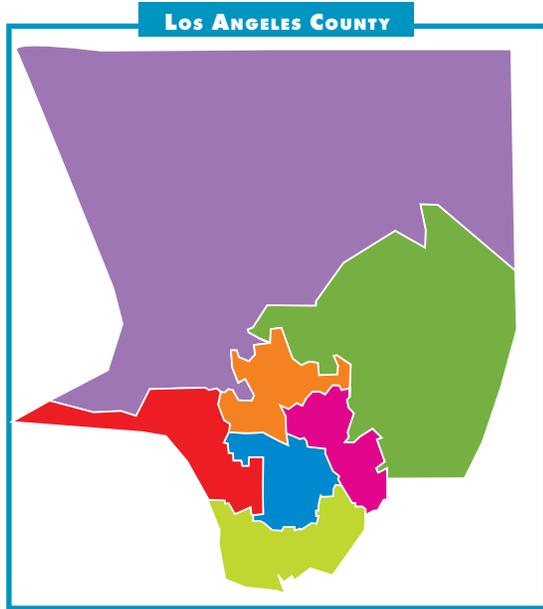
**Main Office:** San Diego  
**Field Offices:** Imperial, National City, San Marcos, Santee



For more information, please refer to the *Central Directory of Early Intervention Resources* located at [www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart) or call 800.837.4337.

# CALIFORNIA EARLY START

## Regional Centers by County



### LOS ANGELES COUNTY

#### **NORTH LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**

**Main Office:** Van Nuys

**Field Offices:** Lancaster, Santa Clarita Valley

#### **WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER**

**Main Office:** Culver City

#### **FRANK D. LANTERMAN REGIONAL CENTER**

**Main Office:** Los Angeles

#### **SAN GABRIEL/POMONA REGIONAL CENTER**

**Main Office:** Pomona

#### **EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**

**Main Office:** Alhambra

**Field Office:** Whittier

#### **SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**

**Main Office:** Los Angeles

#### **HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER**

**Main Office:** Torrance



*With Early Start... We make a difference*

Infants and toddlers who have vision, hearing, and severe orthopedic impairments (or a combination of these disabilities) receive individually designed early intervention services from local education agencies (LEAs) such as school districts and county offices of education. Across the state, special education local plan area (SELPA) administrators coordinate early childhood special education programs, which include early intervention services.

Since 1980, state law included a partial requirement for early education programs to serve the number of infants and toddlers with disabilities that they served in 1980-81. LEAs also provide services to a number of additional children with multiple disabilities under the age of 3 in order to continue to qualify for their current level of state funding.

LEAs provide early intervention services including special instruction, service coordination, family support and other early intervention services identified in the child's individualized family service plan (IFSP). LEAs also coordinate with regional centers and other local agencies and organizations in evaluation, assessment, and development of IFSPs.

For children who are dually served by a regional center and an LEA, basic special education and related services are usually provided by the LEA. Either LEAs or regional centers may be designated to provide service coordination. The regional center may also provide additional early intervention services or other available state services based on the needs of the child and the family.



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# CALIFORNIA EARLY START

## Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs) by County

### INDIVIDUAL COUNTIES SERVED BY ONE SELPA

Amador County SELPA  
 Butte County SELPA  
 Calaveras County SELPA  
 Colusa County SELPA  
 Glenn County SELPA  
 Imperial County SELPA  
 Inyo County SELPA  
 Kings County SELPA  
 Lake County SELPA  
 Lassen County SELPA  
 Marin County SELPA  
 Mendocino County Office of Education

Merced County SELPA  
 Modoc County SELPA  
 Mono County SELPA  
 Monterey County SELPA  
 Napa County SELPA  
 Nevada County SELPA  
 Placer County SELPA  
 Plumas Unified SELPA  
 San Benito County SELPA  
 San Francisco Unified SELPA  
 San Luis Obispo County SELPA  
 San Mateo County SELPA

Santa Barbara County SELPA  
 Santa Clara County SELPA  
 Shasta County SELPA  
 Sierra County SELPA  
 Siskiyou County SELPA  
 Sonoma County SELPA  
 Sutter County SELPA  
 Tehama County SELPA  
 Trinity County SELPA  
 Tulare County SELPA  
 Tuolumne County SELPA  
 Ventura County SELPA  
 Yolo County SELPA



### INDIVIDUAL COUNTIES SERVED BY MORE THAN ONE SELPA

Listed on back.

### MULTIPLE COUNTIES SERVED BY ONE SELPA

Humboldt-Del Norte SELPA  
 Madera-Mariposa SELPA

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# CALIFORNIA EARLY START

## Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) by County

### INDIVIDUAL COUNTIES SERVED BY MORE THAN ONE SELPA

#### ALAMEDA

Mid-Alameda County SELPA  
Mission Valley SELPA  
North Region SELPA  
Oakland Unified SELPA  
Tri-Valley SELPA (*Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton*)

#### CONTRA COSTA

Contra Costa SELPA  
Mt. Diablo Unified SELPA  
San Ramon Valley Unified School District SELPA  
West Contra Costa Unified SELPA

#### EL DORADO

El Dorado County SELPA  
Tahoe-Alpine County SELPA

#### FRESNO

Clovis Unified SELPA  
Fresno County SELPA  
Fresno Unified SELPA

#### KERN

Bakersfield City SELPA  
Kern County Consortium SELPA

#### LOS ANGELES

Antelope Valley SELPA  
Downey-Montebello SELPA  
East San Gabriel Valley SELPA  
Foothill SELPA  
Los Angeles County SELPA  
Los Angeles Unified SELPA  
Mid-Cities Service Area SELPA  
Norwalk-La Mirada/ABC SELPA  
Pasadena Unified SELPA  
Puente Hills SELPA  
Santa Clarita Service Area SELPA  
Southwest SELPA  
Tri-City SELPA (*Beverly Hills, Culver City, and Santa Monica*)  
West San Gabriel Valley SELPA  
Whittier Area Cooperative SELPA

#### ORANGE

Anaheim City SELPA  
Garden Grove Unified SELPA  
Greater Anaheim SELPA  
Irvine Unified SELPA  
Newport-Mesa Unified SELPA  
North Orange County SELPA  
Northeast Orange County SELPA  
Orange Unified SELPA  
Santa Ana Unified SELPA  
South Orange County SELPA  
Tustin Unified SELPA  
West Orange County Consortium for Special Education

#### RIVERSIDE

Corona-Norco Unified SELPA  
Moreno Valley Unified SELPA  
Riverside County SELPA  
Riverside Unified SELPA

#### SACRAMENTO

Elk Grove Unified SELPA  
Sacramento City Unified School District  
Sacramento County SELPA  
San Juan Unified SELPA

#### SAN BERNARDINO

Desert/Mountain SELPA  
East Valley SELPA  
Fontana Unified SELPA  
Morongo Unified School District SELPA  
San Bernardino City Unified SELPA  
West End SELPA

#### SAN DIEGO

Poway Unified SELPA  
San Diego City Unified SELPA  
San Diego East County SELPA  
San Diego North Coastal Consortium SELPA  
San Diego North Inland SELPA  
San Diego South County SELPA

#### SAN JOAQUIN

Lodi Unified SELPA  
San Joaquin County SELPA  
Stockton City Unified SELPA

#### SANTA CRUZ

North Santa Cruz County SELPA  
Pajaro Valley Unified SELPA

#### SOLANO

Solano County SELPA  
Vallejo City Unified School District SELPA

#### STANISLAUS

Modesto City SELPA  
Stanislaus County SELPA

#### YUBA

Sutter County SELPA  
Yuba County SELPA



*With Early Start... We make a difference*

Families of infants and toddlers, from birth up to 36 months with developmental delays and disabilities, can receive parent-to-parent support from family resource centers. Family resource centers receiving Early Start funding actively collaborate with local regional centers and educational agencies and help many parents, families, and children access early intervention services.

California's Early Start family resource centers (FRCs) are staffed by parents who have children with special needs and provide information and parent-to-parent support. Each FRC is unique, reflecting the needs of their community. They may operate as independent sites or be based in regional centers, local education agencies, public health facilities, hospitals, or homes. Services are available in many languages and are culturally responsive to the needs of the individual family.

FRCs contracted by the California Department of Developmental Service may provide:

- ▶ parent-to-parent and family support
- ▶ peer counseling and home visits
- ▶ information and referral
- ▶ public awareness
- ▶ parent education
- ▶ support services in many languages
- ▶ transition assistance
- ▶ support services in urban and rural communities

In addition, several FRCs have newsletters, resource libraries, and websites, as well as parent and/or sibling support groups and telephone "warmlines" or "babylines."

Visit the Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA) website at [www.frcnca.org](http://www.frcnca.org) for more information.



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# CALIFORNIA EARLY START

## Family Resource Centers by County

### DEL NORTE

Early Start Connections

### HUMBOLDT

The Special Needs Connection

### LAKE & MENDOCINO

Safe Passage Family Resource Center

### COLUSA

Colusa County Family Resource Center

### SUTTER

Family Soup/Sutter County Parent Network

### YUBA

Yuba County Family Resource Network

### MARIN, NAPA, SOLANO, SONOMA

MATRIX Parent Network and Resource Center

### SAN FRANCISCO

Support for Families of Children with Disabilities

### CONTRA COSTA

CARE Parent Network

### ALAMEDA

Family Resource Network

### SANTA CLARA

Parents Helping Parents

### SAN MATEO

Family Resource Center at Community Gatepath

### SAN BENITO, SANTA CRUZ

Special Connections Family Resource Center

### MONTEREY

Peaks & Valleys Family Resource Center

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

Parents Helping Parents

### SANTA BARBARA

Alpha Resource Center of Santa Barbara County—Family First

### VENTURA

Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center

### ORANGE

Comfort Connection Family Resource Center

### LASSEN, MODOC, PLUMAS, SIERRA

RAINBOW Family Support and Resource Network

### BUTTE, GLENN, SHASTA, SISKIYOU, TEHAMA, TRINITY

Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern California

### ALPINE, EL DORADO, NEVADA, PLACER, SACRAMENTO, YOLO

WarmLine Family Resource Center

### AMADOR, CALAVERAS, SAN JOAQUIN, STANISLAUS, TUOLUMNE

Family Resource Network

### MERCED

CHALLENGED Family Resource Center of Merced County

### MARIPOSA

Mariposa Family Resource Center

### MADERA, MONO

Extra Special Parent Resource Center

### INYO, MONO

Heart to Hand Family Resource Center

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### FRESNO, KINGS

Clovis Unified Family Resource Center  
Exceptional Parents Unlimited  
Kings County Family Resource Center

### TULARE

Parenting Network Inc.

### KERN

H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection Family Resource Center

### LOS ANGELES

(Listing on back)

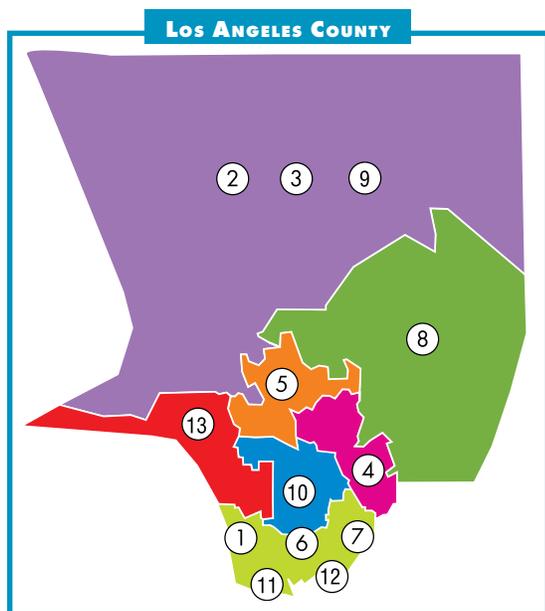
### RIVERSIDE, SAN BERNARDINO

Early Start Family Resource Network

### SAN DIEGO, IMPERIAL

Exceptional Family Resource Center

Family Resource Centers by County



- ① Carolyn Kordich Family Resource Center (Carson, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, Lomita, San Pedro, and Wilmington)
- ② Family Focus Resource and Empowerment Center (San Fernando Valley, excluding Glendale and Burbank)
- ③ Family Focus Resource and Empowerment Center Antelope Valley (Antelope Valley, San Fernando Valley, and Santa Clarita Valley, excluding Glendale and Burbank)
- ④ Family Resource Library and Assistive Technology Center (Alhambra, Boyle Heights, City of Commerce, City Terrace, East Los Angeles, East Whittier, La Mirada, Lincoln Heights, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera, Pomona, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, Santa Fe Springs, South Pasadena, Temple City, and Whittier)
- ⑤ Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center/Koch-Young Family Resource Center (Burbank, Central Los Angeles, Eagle Rock, Glendale, Hollywood/Wilshire, La Cañada, La Crescenta, Loz Feliz, and Pasadena)
- ⑥ Harbor Regional Center Resource Center (Artesia, Carson, Cerritos, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, Hawaiian Gardens, Hermosa Beach, Lakewood, Lomita, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Norwalk, Palos Verdes, Portugese Bend, Rancho Palos Verdes Estates, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills Estates, San Pedro, Santa Catalina Island, Torrance, Waleria, and Wilmington)
- ⑦ Long Beach Family Resource Center (Lakewood, Long Beach, and Signal Hill)
- ⑧ The Parents' Place (Altadena, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, City of Industry, Claremont, Covina, Diamond Bar, Duarte, El Monte, Glendora, Hacienda Heights, La Puente, La Verne, Monrovia, Pomona, Rowland Heights, San Dimas, Sierra Madre, South El Monte, Temple City, Valinda, Walnut, and West Covina)
- ⑨ SEESUN Family Focus Resource and Empowerment Center (Santa Clarita Valley)
- ⑩ South Central Los Angeles Resource Center/Family Resource Center (Carson, Compton, Dominguez Hills, Lynwood, Paramount, South Central Los Angeles, Southeast Family Resource Center Los Angeles, and Southwest Los Angeles)
- ⑪ Southeast Family Resource Center (Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, and Norwalk)
- ⑫ Southwest SELPA Special Education Family Resource Center (El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, and Torrance)
- ⑬ Westside Family Resource Center (Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Inglewood, Lawndale, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Venice, West Los Angeles, Westchester)

Facts at a Glance

CSPD

Comprehensive System of  
Personnel Development

C A L I F O R N I A

EARLY START



*With Early Start... We make a difference*

Early Start was implemented in 1993 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to enhance and coordinate quality early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers (birth to 3 years of age) and their families in California. The delivery of quality early intervention services envisioned by IDEA requires that personnel are qualified and appropriately trained to provide those services to eligible infants, young children, and their families.

Early Start's Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) provides the framework for coordinating the delivery of personnel development activities throughout California. Preservice preparation, inservice training, and technical assistance are essential CSPD components delivered at the state and local level through a variety of personnel development activities. Needs assessments, recruitment and retention, and evaluation of CSPD efforts are additional elements of Early Start's system of personnel development.

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) contracts with the California Early Intervention Technical Assistance Network (CEITAN), a project of the WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention, for CSPD activities. Under the direction of DDS, CEITAN facilitates the implementation of Early Start's statewide CSPD and provides live and online training, a web-based community of practice, and technical assistance to agencies and programs regarding Early Start. Training is grounded in evidence-based practices and aligned to early intervention professional competencies in the *ICC-Recommended Early Start Personnel Manual*.

For more information, visit the DDS Early Start website at [www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart) or call 800.869.4337 for information about CEITAN.



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## *Effective Training and Technical Assistance Reflects and Promotes the Following Core Messages\**

**E**arly childhood from birth to age 5 is a dynamic period of development. Early childhood intervention contributes to positive outcomes for children and families.

**F**amily is the single most important influence on the growth and development of a young child. Early childhood intervention recognizes the centrality of the family and supports the child's relationships with parents and other primary caregivers.

**F**amily and professional partnerships contribute to quality service delivery systems. Effective partnerships are based on mutual trust; are developed over time; and support families as active participants and decision-makers for their children.

**E**very young child with disabilities or other special needs and every family has strengths. Early childhood intervention teams identify the strengths of the child and family and help to enrich existing formal and informal resources and supports.

**C**ulture, language, and value differences among families are respected. Early childhood intervention services are individualized, flexible, respectful, and responsive.

**T**eachable moments occur in everyday activities and in a variety of settings. Early childhood intervention promotes practices that appropriately include young children with disabilities and their families in family activities and settings where young children without disabilities and their families come together.

**I**nteragency and interdisciplinary partnerships improve the experiences of children and families. Coordination among agencies, providers, and disciplines creates early childhood intervention systems that are cost-effective, comprehensive, cohesive, and easily accessed.

**V**alidated, evidence-based research guides practice. Quality early childhood intervention services are based on research and outcome-driven practices.

**E**ffective systems of personnel development provide opportunities for building skills, supporting mentors, and fostering leadership.

\*These messages were developed by the Training and Technical Assistance Collaborators (TTAC), an interagency partnership in California dedicated to delivering quality personnel development activities for personnel who serve children birth-5 with disabilities and other special needs and their families. We believe early childhood intervention T&TA activities that are guided by these messages promote positive outcomes for young children and their families.

For more information, e-mail [ttac@wested.org](mailto:ttac@wested.org)



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# Child Find & Public Awareness

C A L I F O R N I A

# EARLY START



*With Early Start... We make a difference*

Early Start has a comprehensive interagency child find system with the goal of ensuring that all infants and toddlers who may be eligible for early intervention services are located, identified, and referred to the appropriate agency for evaluation for services. Child find activities, which include public awareness outreach and materials, are conducted at the state level by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and at the local level by regional centers, Early Start family resource centers (FRCs), and local education agencies.

Public awareness outreach promotes child find by focusing on early identification and timely referrals for further assessment and connection to services, as appropriate. Early Start FRCs participate in public awareness activities that include community outreach, information dissemination, and referral. FRCs also assist families with how to access the early intervention service system.

Early Start also produces and disseminates a variety of published materials to support child find, public awareness, and outreach. These materials help to increase the community's knowledge and understanding of early intervention services, facilitate appropriate referrals, and support the families' role in early intervention. Many public awareness materials are available in multiple languages, and many of the materials and outreach activities target hard-to-reach populations.

Early Start processes and practices are reviewed periodically to provide opportunities to address issues and any barriers to connecting referrals to services. This continuous improvement cycle allows for state and local input and solutions.

For more information, visit DDS' Early Start website at [www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart), or call Early Start Resources at 800.869.4337 for free product information, including multilingual resources, on early intervention.



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