

## What Parents Are Saying —

“ Our Family Resource Center helped us adjust to our unexpected circumstances and has provided us with many resources for our daughter and for our family. Everyone in the community benefits when special needs families are cared for.  
—Steve and Lynn R., Santa Barbara

Family Resource Network staff are more than willing to help and very understanding. They'll even call and ask how my son is doing and how I'm doing.  
—Stacey R., Oakland

Remembering back when my own son was newly diagnosed as having a disability, I was overwhelmed by all that I needed to learn. The professionals were all helpful and caring, but it was the parents of children with special needs at the Family Resource Center that helped me with the healing I needed at that time. ”  
—Nina P., San Diego

**Early Start Family Resource Centers serve families and professionals in every community across the state.**

The 47 Early Start Family Resource Centers have joined together as the Family Resource Centers Network of California. You can find more information about Early Start Family Resource Centers at [www.frcnca.org](http://www.frcnca.org), or email: [info@frcnca.org](mailto:info@frcnca.org).

Services are provided at no cost. To find the Family Resource Center nearest to you, call 800-515-BABY, visit [www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart), e-mail: [earlystart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:earlystart@dds.ca.gov).

## CALIFORNIA EARLY START



## Family Resource Centers

Serving families with children,  
birth-36 months, who have a  
developmental delay or disability



**Early Start Family Resource Centers  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



## EARLY START

# Family Resource Centers

An Early Start Family Resource Center is a place where families of young children who have a developmental delay or disability, and the professionals who work with them, can access information, support, and referral services.

FRC staff, who are parents of children with special needs, know the value of parent-to-parent support because they've "been there."

### EARLY START FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS:

- \* Provide information, resources, referrals, education, and support for families of infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months who have a developmental delay or disability
- \* Are staffed by parents who have children with special needs and are professionally trained
- \* Provide a family-friendly atmosphere
- \* Respond to the individual needs of families
- \* Provide culturally responsive services
- \* Assist parents, families, primary caregivers, and professionals in locating, accessing, and navigating services
- \* Promote parent-professional collaboration

### EARLY START FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS PROVIDE:

- \* Parent-to-parent and family support in many languages
- \* Information and referral to local, state, and national services and resources
- \* Parent training and education
- \* Resource libraries
- \* Support groups
- \* Community outreach activities
- \* Transition assistance when your child turns 3 years old



Independent evaluations and monitoring reports confirm the important role FRCs play in helping families obtain information and access services and in linking families and professionals to improve service delivery. These centers promote continuous family centered services and are effective in grassroots child find and referral activities. This statewide initiative ensures ongoing family support for young children with disabilities and their families and caretakers within their local communities and, therefore, assists the formal service system with vital linkages to resources that are available and accessible.

- Monitoring Report of California's Early Start Program, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Planning, July 1999.

The support and information provided by (FRC) resource parents helped to reduce the feelings of being overwhelmed that new parents commonly mentioned. (FRCs) are also widely regarded as instrumental and effective in facilitating critical activities that promote parent-professional partnerships and interagency collaboration, including information and referral, community outreach and public awareness, and training.

- Early Start Program Evaluation Final Report to Department of Developmental Services, Montgomery et al July 1997.

