

STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SSIP)
REGIONAL CENTER LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT (RCLIA)

COHORT #1



The California Early Start SSIP

The SSIP is a federally required multi-year plan states must develop to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities. States must identify a measurable child result as the focus of their SSIP and report annually to the federal government on its progress in the measurable result through 2020.

Based upon input from Early Start stakeholders, California selected to focus on increasing the percentage of infants and toddlers with disabilities in California who substantially increase their rate of growth in positive social-emotional skills by the time they exit the early intervention program. Three different improvement strategies were identified to accomplish this task:

- parent and provider education
- professional development
- interagency collaboration

The Regional Center Local Implementation Assessment (RCLIA)

The RCLIA template has been created to assist regional centers (RCs) and their local implementation team members with planning and documenting how they plan to implement the SSIP at their local level.

Intended Goal

The RCLIA's intended goal is to help the regional center and local implementation team understand minimal implementation requirements and recommend additional implementation activities that the local team may want to consider.

Stakeholders and Partnerships in Early Start Services

Local implementation teams are not limited to the activities associated with this template and are encouraged to utilize their existing resources and partnerships to implement the SSIP. It is recommended that as many local implementation team members participate in developing the RCLIA or that the plan be shared with local implementation team members to ensure that a systemic approach is used in implementing the plan.

Resources and Support

WestEd professionals and regional center DDS liaisons will aid teams in completing the form or be available to provide guidance and answer questions. Each regional center is requested to submit a RCLIA to DDS prior to implementation of their plan.

SECTION I: REGIONAL CENTER INFORMATION

Valley Mountain **Regional Center/Local Implementation Team**

SSIP Local Implementation Team Leader(s): Mary Sheehan, Tara Sisemore Hester

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1. What processes and tools are currently used by regional center and provider personnel to evaluate and assess the social/emotional development of infants and toddlers referred to Early Start? Parent Interview; Assessor Observations; Other caregiver reports; the tools used are the: Battelle; HELP; HOPE; and Carolina ELAP. VMRC also obtains data from our Early Start Reports. The online tools allow us to track how we are doing in the social emotional area. We also have a parent questionnaire we send to all parents initially and annually with questions to help us see what the parents' needs, priorities and concerns are. This is voluntary so parents do not have to send this back, and they go over it at time of IFSP meeting.

2. Please briefly describe how your regional center currently supports children and families in the provision of services that promote social/emotional development.

Provide referrals to generic counseling and/or VMRC funded counseling for families. Introduce Family Resource Network (FRN) services, classes and support in mailings to parents and at all regular contact with families, assess all 5 developmental areas every 6 months, and discuss results with family at IFSP meeting (review, annual, transition). Most children have an infant teacher in the home to provide developmental training in all areas, not just areas of delay. Children with autism characteristics receive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services that include parent training as part of the program design, so the parent can connect with the child and implement successful behavior techniques.

SECTION II: LOCAL SSIP IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Please describe how the regional center will recruit local partner agencies and organizations to become part of the RC's local implementation team:

VMRC is going to organize our local collaborative by office, Stockton, Modesto and San Andreas. We will invite Special Education Local Planning Areas (SELPA) and private vendors thru regular meetings and email invitations. In San Joaquin county, we have the Early Intervention Services Committee (EISC) that meets 5 times per year at the VMRC Stockton office. The group consists of VMRC managers; SELPA administrators; FRN; private vendors; First 5 rep; early head start; some Local Education Agency (LEA) (local school districts) reps; and other community agencies as invited. In Stanislaus county, we have the Early Start Coordinating Committee (ESCC) that meets 4 times per year. We meet in the Modesto VMRC office. This meeting consists of VMRC managers and staff; and SELPA administrators and staff. For Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, we have the Mountain Counties Collaborative Meeting. We meet 2 times per year, either at VMRC or the Calaveras County Office of Education in Angels Camp. This meeting has VMRC managers and staff; private vendors; SELPA administrators and staff; and a FRN rep. We will reach out to other private vendors who are not part of any of the 3 meetings above, and will have a group meeting with them in September 2016.

Please list possible local implementation team members. (Recommended partners include vendors, representatives from the local Family Resource Center, educational agencies, Head Start, First 5, and others)

Proposed/Established Team Member	Organization Represented	Email Address
See attached		

SECTION III: INTEGRATION OF EARLY START SSIP RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

How will your RC integrate the following five Early Start SSIP resources to enhance your Local Implementation Team’s success?

1. Early Start Recommended Practices for Assessment of Social-Emotional Development

Local implementation teams will be provided with an evidence based best practice document on recommended assessment practices.

Please check one or more boxes:

- Teams will review and share the recommended practices for assessment of social-emotional development with service providers/field staff.
- Teams will review and share the recommended practices and take steps to actively implement recommendations, such as:
 - Using the same assessment tool at both the child’s entry into and exit from Early Start.
 - Using the same assessment tool to assess social/emotional development.
- Other. Please describe: We are exploring current and new assessment tools. We are obtaining a sample of one tool. VMRC managers will reach a consensus, then share this with our SELPA and private vendor partners and develop a plan to implement testing protocol by end of October 2016.

2. Resource Guide to State Initiatives

Local Implementation Teams will be provided with a resource guide containing evidence-based initiatives and resources that focus on social and emotional development. Teams can then identify resources and strategies of an initiative to inform practices.

Please check one or more boxes:

- Teams will identify an evidence-based initiative that focuses on social-emotional development and make the principles and resources from their identified initiative(s) available to service providers, parents, and other local Early Start community partners that will inform their practice.
- Teams will identify an evidence-based initiative that focuses on social-emotional development and facilitate active implementation of the initiative with partners.

Other. Please describe: We are providing free training on 5 Protective Factors and have invited all private vendors, school personnel and FRN. This is scheduled for up to 100 attendees on 8/25/16. We also are having a training for VMRC staff, SELPA and vendors on 11/2/16 on ABC of Early Intervention by Cari Ebert. This training will focus on functional outcomes and relating to families. See attached.

3. Training

Online training on social-emotional development is available to Teams and the Early Start community from DDS and WestEd. Training grants are also available to support additional trainings to be hosted by the RC and its local SSIP implementation team. The online community of practice, made available by DDS and WestEd, will support the dissemination of information and resources and promote active discussion around implementation of evidence-based practices.

Please check one or more boxes:

Teams will join and participate, and encourage their staff to join and participate, in the online community of practice to support the dissemination of information and resources and engage in active discussions around implementation of evidence-based practices.

Teams will invite members of the broader Early Start community to participate in the online training developed by DDS and WestEd on social-emotional development.

Teams will host events or trainings to reinforce or build capacity in supporting social-emotional development.

Teams will host events or trainings to facilitate local implementation of evidence-based practices.

Other. Please describe: At our regular office meetings, we will have each agency report on what is working to disseminate the online training and what is not. VMRC utilizes a parent questionnaire to elicit needs, priorities and concerns for the IFSP. We are going to enhance this questionnaire by adding questions related to family support and community resources. We will do this by end of November 2016. We can use this information to help staff focus on the social emotional area, and also to gather data from families about how things are going

4. The SSIP Provider Checklist

This quick reference on best practices in family-centered service provision will include helpful reminders to providers while engaging families.

Please check one or more boxes:

Teams will email the SSIP Provider Checklist to service providers/field personnel and/or make the checklist available on their website or direct them to the DDS website where it will be posted.

Teams will make the checklist available to service providers during regularly scheduled meetings.

Teams will host a local training on the use of the Provider Checklist.

Other. Please describe: Will train on this during our regular meetings.

5. Take a Minute Campaign

Brochures for parents will emphasize the importance of the parent-child relationship, and provide practical tips to promote social-emotional development. A video will explain the components of social-emotional development in a family friendly manner.

Please check one or more boxes:

- Teams will make their staff, service coordinators, vendors and families aware of the Take a Minute resources available on the Early Start Neighborhood and DDS websites.
- Teams will encourage their staff, service coordinators, and service providers to share and review the Take a Minute resources with families as often as possible, at a minimum at intake and at each annual IFSP meeting.
- Teams will ensure that providers and service coordinators are providing families with copies of the printed Take a Minute resources.
- Other. Please describe: We will show the take a minute video at our regular office meetings of the implementation teams.

Please complete the following additional questions:

How and how often will the RC and its local implementation team members meet to share information on the progress of its implementation? Every 2-3 months, will fold this into our regular meetings. We can hold smaller sub group meetings as needed.

How will the RC and its local implementation team provide outreach to vendors, allied health professionals, parents, and other members of the Early Start community in their local areas to inform them of the on-line Community of Practice and other SSIP resources? We can email them; offer to present at regular meetings as they have done this in the past); we can look to First 5 to help with this (i.e. newsletters, regular email communications, personal contacts, regular interagency meetings, health and information fairs).

What evidence-based Initiative(s) will the RC and local implementation team choose to focus on? Strengthening Families

Please describe how your RC and local implementation team may be able to provide or gather data related to their implementation? VMRC can provide data on social emotional scores from ESR. We can ask each organization to do a self survey and report to us how is it going, and if they see changes, and how do parents respond. We will have this as a report item at all meetings.

Team member	Organization represented	Email address	VMRC office organization
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