

STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT



The California Early Start State Systemic Improvement Plan (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; and,
- Interagency collaboration.

The Local Implementation Assessment (LIA)

The LIA template has been created to assist regional centers and their local implementation team members with planning and documenting how they will implement the SSIP at their local level.

Intended Goal

The LIA'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 local implementation team members participate in

developing the LIA 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

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

SECTION I: REGIONAL CENTER INFORMATION

Regional Center/Local Implementation Team

SSIP Local Implementation Team Leader(s): Rachel Hagans, Donna Perry, Andrea Herrada, Barbara Newman

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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?** Infants and toddlers, zero to three, referred to Early Start are interviewed by an Intake Service Coordinator then evaluated by a multidisciplinary team (MDT) of professionals utilizing a trans-disciplinary approach. The MDT can include a speech therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, pediatrician, registered nurse, child development specialist and intake service coordinators. During the evaluation, the MDT observes the family and child, interviews the parents and interacts with the infant or toddler to complete developmental testing. A developmental evaluation is completed using a multi-domain tool; Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) and, if indicated, an autism screening can be completed using the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers- Revised (M-CHAT-R). Ongoing developmental assessment tools include the Infant Developmental Assessment (IDA). Each tool provides a level of social emotional development but does not thoroughly assess social emotional functioning. Providers continue to monitoring social emotional development with the HELP or IDA. An assessment tool, specifically to measure social emotional milestones will be identified during the planning phase.

- 2. Please briefly describe how your regional center currently supports children and families in the provision of services that promote social/emotional development.** CVRC links families to early intervention supports and resources that build upon the family's strengths. Each family is paired with educator(s) that teach the family how to nurture children's development, including social emotional, through everyday interactions and routinely implemented activities at home.

Educators are early start practitioners in the fields of behavior intervention, speech and language development, physical and occupational therapy, family counseling and child development.

SECTION II: LOCAL SSIP IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Please describe how the regional center will recruit local partner agencies and organizations to become part of the regional center’s local implementation team. The CVRC Early Intervention Directors’ group meets quarterly and represents all early intervention programs and FRCs throughout CVRC’s 6 county-wide catchment area. Partners represent private vendors, Family Resource Centers and Local Education Agencies. During quarterly meetings, SSIP has been introduced and discussed. Partner agencies will be invited to join CVRC’s Local Implementation Team by CVRC.

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

Proposed/Established Team Member	Organization Represented	Email Address
Tammy Frates	Fresno County Superintendent of Schools	Tfrates@fcoe.org
Carin Jackson	Clovis Unified School District, FRC	Cjackson@clovisusd.k12.ca.us
Heidi Barbis	Fresno Unified School District	Heidi.barbis@fresnounified.org
Lynette Ratzlaff	Exceptional Parents Unlimited	lratzlaff@epuchildren.org
Jennifer Slatten	Merced County Office of Education	Jslatten@mcoe.org
Cindy Lopez	Foundations	Clopez@foundationsc2@gmail.com
Cindy Stoops	Foundations	cstoops@foundationsc2@gmail.com
Kristine Gose	Fresno City College RAM TOTS	Kristine.gose@fresnocitycollege.edu
Andrea Herrada	Central Valley Regional Center, Fresno	aherrada@cvrc.org
Donna Perry	Central Valley Regional Center, Merced	dperry@cvrc.org
Barbara Newman	Central Valley Regional Center, Visalia	bnewman@cvrc.org

Rachel Hagans	Central Valley Regional Center	Rhagans@cvrc.org
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SECTION III: INTEGRATION OF EARLY START SSIP RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

How will your regional center 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

This resource is an evidence-based best practice document on recommended assessment practices.

Please check one or more boxes:

- X** Teams will review and share the recommended practices for assessment of social-emotional development with service providers/field staff.
- X** Teams will review and share the recommended practices and take steps to actively implement recommendations, such as:
- X** Using the same assessment tool at both the child's entry into and exit from Early Start; and,
 - X** Using the same assessment tool to assess social-emotional development.
- X** Other. Please describe: CVRC is planning on researching other assessment tools to determine if another tool will more accurately reflect social emotional functioning in infants and toddlers zero to three.

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

2. Resource Guide to State Initiatives

This resource guide contains 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:

- X** 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.
- X** Teams will identify an evidence-based initiative that focuses on social-emotional development and facilitate active implementation of the initiative with partners.
- X** Teams will host events or trainings to facilitate local implementation of evidence-based practices to reinforce or build capacity in supporting social and emotional development.
- Other. Please describe:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

3. Training

Online training on social-emotional development is available to teams and the Early Start community. 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:

X 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.

X 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.

X Other. Please describe: Team will, in coordination with Family Resource Centers and other community partners, increase the capacity of Early Start programs to accelerate and document social emotional milestones of children and families through training. Participants will understand the direct links between using relationship-based strategies with families, how those interactions improve social-emotional outcomes, and how social-emotional outcomes are measured and scored on selected assessment tool.

PARENT AND PROVIDER EDUCATION

4. The SSIP Provider Checklist (Provider Tips for Supporting Social-Emotional Development)

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:

X 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.

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

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

Other. Please describe:

5. Take a Minute Campaign

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

Please check one or more boxes:

- X** 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.
- X** 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.
- X** Teams will ensure that providers and service coordinators are providing families with copies of the printed Take a Minute resources.
- X** Teams will host a local training on the use of the Take a Minute Campaign.
- Other. Please describe:

Please answer the following additional questions:

How and how often will the regional center and its local implementation team members meet to share information on the progress of its implementation?

Quarterly after regularly scheduled Early Intervention Directors Meeting or more frequently as needed.

How will the regional center 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 online Community of Practice and other SSIP resources? (i.e. newsletters, regular e-mail communications, personal contacts, regular interagency meetings, health and information fairs, other) CVRC will outreach via CVRC website, Facebook page, vendor email list, regular interagency meetings, health and information fairs, personal contacts, agency newsletter and community outreach presentations. Family Resource Center's (FRC) will be a vital partner in disseminating SSIP resources as every family who is assessed by Early Start is referred to the local FRC.

What evidence-based initiative(s) will the regional center and local implementation team choose to focus on? CVRC will be using the Strengthening Families; A Protective Factors Framework as the basis of our social emotional training as it is based on engages families, programs and communities.

Please describe how your regional center and local implementation team may be able to provide or gather data related to their implementation. Pre and post tests will be acquired as a result of trainings. Social emotional outcome data will be measured at entry to Early Start and upon exit and will be available in ESR. Family surveys will also be utilized upon a family's exit of Early Start that will target a measurement of the family's feelings of enhanced skills, support and competence in the social emotional development of their child.

Please describe how your regional center is planning to sustain the SSIP and implementation of the SSIP resources past the rollout of the third cohort.

Regional center and partnering SSIP agencies will ensure practices to improve social emotional outcomes for children and families are embedded into program training with ongoing support which will consistently improve staff capacity. Outreach and communication to partners and communities will be maintained, keeping them informed of developments and success to promote ongoing involvement and social impact.

- Providers and regional center will use Early Start Neighborhood SSIP resources for ongoing staff training and also the West Ed open access Social Emotional course as a group or individually.
- Every IFSP will have a Social Emotional outcome.
- Take a Minute flyer will be shared with families at IFSP meetings or other parent meetings increasing awareness and discussion with parents.
- Providers will use the provider checklist (Take a Minute: Provider Tips for Supporting Social and Emotional Development) as a guide for relationship based service delivery.
- Regional center will reach out to community programs and offer Take a Minute to be considered as a standard resource shared with families.
- Family Resource Centers will routinely conduct community workshops and trainings on the protective factors framework and develop social emotional workshops and trainings as well.
- Regional center will continue awareness and education of SSIP during regular Early Intervention Directors meetings held quarterly.