

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

Local Implementation Team

SSIP Local Implementation Team Leader(s):

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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?

- At the time of Intake, the Service Coordinator complete the intake forms which address parent concerns, child health history, parent background, and developmental milestones.
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- In Napa and Solano Counties, Service Coordinator or Vendored provider complete the MSEL and the DP3 at the time of Intake; MCHAT is also completed for some children if concerns around ASD are brought up by the parent or anyone on the Intake assessment team. If LEA programs are part of the Intake process, other standardized testing tools are administered.
- In Sonoma County, the DAYC-2 is being using to evaluate and assess social/emotional development at entry and exit. Either the HELP or DP-3 is used for annual IFSP reviews. For children with red flags for ASD, the M-CHAT is also used.

- Standardized tests are administered by the Service Coordinator, LEA programs or vendored providers at the time of the annual reviews to document progress made.
- In addition to administering a standardized test, intake teams and providers are encouraged to document clinical observations, parental concerns and child's progress noticed by family with a focus on child/family's strengths.
- Concerns and priorities are discussed/reviewed every 6 months and at the time of transition.

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

- Many of the children in Early Start are receiving group services to support social/emotional development and social communication in addition to receiving individualized services.
- Families are encouraged to access community social groups such as library groups for toddlers.
- In Sonoma County, Parents are encouraged to access support through Child Parent Institute and/or community parent groups.
- In Sonoma County, the PEAS program provides home visits to families that need more support when entering early intervention services. (Private Grant)
- Community Action Partnership in Sonoma County runs Avance and Pasitos groups that target social and emotional development. (First 5 funding)
- EI's receive training in all areas of development and incorporate their knowledge and expertise into their visits with families. In addition, the intervention team is encouraged to take into consideration the parent-child interaction while addressing developmental needs.
- For clients working with LEA programs, the LEA provides group opportunities in addition to weekly home visits in the natural environment (ex. Napa Infant Program, Me Too Program)
- In Solano County, the NBRC Early Start Program collaborates with Child Haven, (a vendor and community partner) that provides mental health services to address social/emotional, behavioral and relational issues. If the child has Medi-Cal, Child Haven is able to bill these services to Medi-Cal. (ex. PCIT)

SECTION II: LOCAL SSIIP 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.

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
Andi Knowlton	NCOE / Napa Infant Program	aknowlton@napacoe.org
Margarita Ferrer	Vallejo City Unified School District / Exceptional Tots Program	ferrerm@vcusd.org
Ilah Feeney	Solano County Office of Education / Me Too Program	ifeeney@solanocoe.net
Jane Johnson	Child Haven	jjohnson@child-haven.org
Judy Peterson / Susan Smith	Child / Head Start	jpeterson@childstartinc.org ssmith@childstartinc.org
Marlena Gutierrez	Parents CAN (FRC)	marlenag@parentsca.org
Stephanie Ryan	Matrix (FRC)	stephanier@matrixparents.org
Wendy Fern / Maura Snider	Napa County Public Health	wendy.fern@countyofnapa.org maura.snider@countyofnapa.org
LaDonna Christofferson	Uplift Family Center	lchristoffersen@upliftfs.org
Bonnie Hayne	Sonoma County SELPA	bhayne@sonomaselpa.org
Michele Rogers	Early Learning Institute	micheler@earlylearninginsitute.com
Karen Durando or Janice March	Child Parent Institute	karend@calparents.org janicem@calparents.org
Nora Thompson	Matrix FRC	norat@matrixparents.org
Carla Denner	First 5	Carla.Denner@sonoma-county.org
Barbara Francis	Head Start	bfrancis@capsonoma.org
All Early Start unit members from both Napa and SR offices	North Bay Regional Center	

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:

- 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; and,
 - Using the same assessment tool to assess social-emotional development.
- Other. Please describe: Since the Santa Rosa and Napa offices use different assessment tools, the agency research the best tool to be using in both offices for entry and exit.

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:

- 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.
- 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:
 - North Bay Regional Center will add a social-emotional outcome to all IFSPs.

- North Bay Regional Center will make the Take a Minute campaign materials available to community partners, providers, and families, and will distribute the surveys to parents at the time of the period reviews.

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:

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.

Other. Please describe:

- North Bay Regional Center will have all service coordinators take the on-line training utilizing the early Start Neighborhood website.
- North Bay Regional Center will consider giving a formal Cultural Sensitivity training that will be made available to all vendored service providers.

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:

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:

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:

- 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.
- Teams will host a local training on the use of the Take a Minute Campaign.
- Other. Please describe: North Bay Regional Center will show the Take A Minute video to Service Coordinators, Infant Programs, and other local community partners during collaborative meetings.

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?

- Twice a year, NBRC will meet with the Local Implementation Team partners to discuss the SSIP plan. During these meetings, the team will discuss the implementation of the training material and TAM campaign documents and will have conversations pertaining to how to improve the implementation and provide future training and support.

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)

- NBRC will incorporate the online Community of Practice and SSIP resources into our Early Start section of the NBRC website and will also add a link to the Early Start neighborhood so that parents, providers, and community partners can have access to it. Information and training updates will be sent to providers via a quarterly email

newsletter. Materials will be shared with NBRC Outreach Committee and Disparity Committee's to be shared and disseminated in the community during community events.

- Provide SSIP resources at community meetings. SSIP resources such as the Take A Minute campaign will be shared at the Sonoma County Early Start Roundtable, Help Me Grow Sonoma County meetings, Solano County Children's Alliance meetings, collaborative meetings with the Napa Infant Program.

What evidence-based initiative(s) will the regional center and local implementation team choose to focus on?

- NBRC and LIT to focus on Strengthening Families (The Five Protective Factors) while also exploring CSEFEL depending on funding.

Please describe how your regional center and local implementation team may be able to provide or gather data related to their implementation.

- Social/emotional scores will continue to be entered on the ESR at entry and exit from the Early Start Program. IFSP outcomes related to social/emotional development will be added to IFSPs and progress will be documented at IFSP reviews. NBRC will disseminate the surveys related to the Take A Minute Campaign.