

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): Eulalia Apolinar

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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?**

Our Early Start Interview was recently updated to include more information regarding the social-emotional needs of the child.

TCRC uses a family centered, strength based approach in which we address the strength and needs of the family and develop goals that reflect the concerns and priorities of the family.

If applicable, an MCHAT is performed.

We are working with our vendor community to use the following testing tools to assess eligibility: Bayley, Dayc-2, and Help Strands as a supplement.

Testing scores are used to complete the ESR at entry and exit from Early Start.

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

Our vendor community trains their early interventionists to be sensitive to any support a family may need in the social-emotional domain.

During their in-home work, the early interventionist incorporates family strengthening strategies into their work and fosters everyday practices of these skills.

We partner with community resources, such as First 5, to provide referrals to generic services that can enhance the social-emotional outcomes for a family.

Service Coordinators are trained to support families in accessing these additional services.

We work collaboratively with our local educational agencies, vendor community, and Early Head Start to foster the parent-child relationship. The 5 Protective Factors is an example of one of the resources used.

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.

TCRC has been talking about the SSIP at our local vendor partner meetings and letting them know what the project is as well as how we will all be working together to reach positive outcomes.

Each local Early Start manager has relationships with staff from the family resource centers, schools, the county, and our vendors, we have made personal calls to each of the persons listed and gotten their agreement to add them to our 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
Yanka Richlefs, Director Program & Personnel Development	SELPA, Ventura County	yricklefs@vcoe.org
Sharon Elmensdrop, Developmental Specialist	Landon Pediatric Foundation/Help Me Grow, Ventura County	sharon@helpmegrowvc.org
Heather Davidson, Program Manager	First 5, Ventura County	hdavidson@first5.org
Pablo A. Velez, Program Director & CEO	Amigo Baby, Ventura County	pvelez@amigobaby.com
Kristen Rohde, Speech Language Pathology	Seaside Therapy Inc., Ventura County	krohde@seaside-therapy.com
Robin Millar, Administrative Director	Adventist Health Simi Valley, Ventura County	millarrp@ah.org
Heather Espinoza, Director	Developmental Milestones, Ventura County	dmi@socal.rr.com

Helen Wade, CEO	Speech Language and Educational Associates, Ventura County	hwade@speechassociates.com
Quy Neel Lead Clinical Director	STAR, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties	qneel@starofca.com
Laurie Jordan, Director	Rainbow Connections Family Resource Center, Ventura County	ljordan@tri-counties.org
Silvia Wasjutin, Owner & Director	Mariposas, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties	swasjutin@gmail.com
Machel Symons, Owner & Director	Child Development Network, Santa Barbara County	machelsymons@gmail.com
Suely Johns, Owner & Director	GOIABA, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties	suely@goiaba-idp.org
Kathy Gulje, Director of Special Ed.	County Office of Education, Santa Barbara	gulje@sbceo.ort
Ray Avila Director	SELPA, Santa Barbara County	ravila@sbceo.org
Jennifer Connolly, Coordinator	SELPA Santa Barbara County	jconnolly@sbceo.org
Patty Moore, Director	ALPHA Family Resource Center, Santa Barbara County	pjmoore@alphasb.org
Sharlene Agrusa, Director	Parents Helping Parents Family Resource Center, San Luis Obispo County	Sagrusa@ucp-slo.org
Marya Malinowski, Owner & Director	Her agency does not have a name, San Luis Obispo County	maryamalinowski@charter.net
Julie Loe, Owner & Director	Pediatric Services, San Luis Obispo County	julieloe@thegrind.net
Susanne Murphy, Educational Specialist, Infant Teacher	County Office of Education, San Luis Obispo County	smurphy@slocoe.org
Wendy Wendt, Executive Director	First 5, San Luis Obispo County	wwendt@first5slo.org

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: We have looked at possible social-emotional measures, and settled on the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA). We will provide training to our vendor community on this tool that specifically looks at this important domain. The results will be incorporated into the developmental assessments and the assessments will be completed every six months. Entry and exit scores will be entered in the ESR.

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.

X Other. Please describe: During each county specific quarterly meeting with our Early Start Partners we will use this time to share resources, provide coaching, and cross pollinate successful strategies.

- Our local implementation teams have already been trained on and use the *Five Protective Factors*, one of the tools outlined in the *Resource Guide to Initiatives and Programs to Support **Social and Emotional Development in Infants and Toddlers***.

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: In anticipation of the SSIP, TCRC has been working with our Community Partners to focus on the social-emotional domain. We have incorporated use of Family Strengthening materials in our meetings, and work with the children and families we support.

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.

☐ 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 resource 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.

X Other. Please describe: We are working on Take a Minute folders as well, that will hold the information given to families.

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?

We will meet quarterly with our community partners. Our smaller implementation team will meet monthly in the beginning.

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)

TCRC will share the above resources during our Webinar trainings on the SSIP that will be provided for our vendor community.

We will reinforce these tools during our Early Start Partner meetings in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties, and in Ventura County these will be shared at Connections Café.

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

TCRC will support our Early Start vendors and partners in using the DECA to assess the Social/Emotional level of children in the Early Start program.

We will also share with and train or Early Start vendors and partners on the Take a Minute campaign, Provider Check List, and training materials from The Neighborhood website.

Finally we have used, and will continue to use the Strengthening Families (The Five Protective Factors) strategies.

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

TCRC will use the Early Start Report to gather data on the Social/Emotional domain.

In partnership with our vendor community TCRC will be able to gather more specific information on the Take a Minute Campaign by implementing the Acquisition of Knowledge (AoK) survey, and the subsequent Application of Knowledge (AoK) survey.