



EARLY START NEWSLETTER

November 2022



The Early Start program is California's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Early Start services are available statewide and are provided in a coordinated, family-centered system.

Visit Our Website

[Early Start Webpage](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Resources for Families, Parents & Caregivers](#)

AWARENESS CALENDAR

Epilepsy Awareness

Individuals with epilepsy have a higher risk of seizures. Learn more about epilepsy here:

<https://www.epilepsy.com/make-difference/public-awareness/national-epilepsy-awareness-month>

National Family Caregivers Month

In November 2022, the theme of National Caregivers Month is #CaregivingHappens. Visit the Caregiver Action Network to learn more.

<https://www.caregiveraction.org/>

Prematurity Awareness Month

November is Prematurity Awareness Month. It is a time to raise awareness of the infant health crisis of preterm birth.

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/prematurity-awareness-month.aspx>

International Day of Persons with Disabilities: December 3rd

The commitment to realizing the rights of persons with disabilities is not only a matter of justice; it is an investment in a common future.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-persons-with-disabilities>

EVENTS

Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention (ICC) October Meeting

The October ICC Meeting was held on the following days and times:

Day 1: October 20, 2022: 9:00 AM- 3:30 PM

Day 2: October 21, 2022: 10:00 AM-2:30 PM

For more information and meeting notes visit:

[State Interagency Coordinating Council](#)

2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates

January 19-20, 2023

April 20-21, 2023

July 20-21, 2023

October 19-20, 2023



RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Family Resource Center Success Story

A monolingual Spanish speaking mother of a two-year-old who is receiving services called concerned with speech progress. We shared how to collaborate with the IFSP team and service coordinator, and simple ways she can help her child at home. She was very thankful to learn about assistive technology supports and services that are available. We invited mom to Cafe para Familias and she has been attending since July and is interested in volunteering. Mom says she is grateful to have reached out to the family resource center for support, because it changed her perspective and encouraged her to keep going and find additional community supports for her daughter.



[Family Resource Centers Network of California](#)

The FRCNCA ensures that staff at Early Start Family Resource Centers are given access to professional development and connections with professionals in the field.

[Home - Sesame Street in Communities - Sesame Street in Communities](#)

The Sesame Street in Communities website is a wonderful resource for parents and care providers that has constructive tips for numerous topics like Autism and Resilience. There are several helpful articles and short educational videos available.

Family Outcomes Survey

Ever wonder how the Family Outcomes is calculated in the Annual Early Start Performance Report for the Office of Special Education? The answer is the Family Outcomes Survey. Once a year, DDS sends thousands of randomly selected families a 20-question survey that can be completed online or via paper. Their responses are input into a database that examines the scores for the annual report! If you received a family survey, please remember to fill them out by the end of November. If you have any questions, please contact us at EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov or 800-515-BABY (2229)



Holiday Health & Safety Tips

[10 Ways to Have a Safe Thanksgiving
Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season](#)

[Child Safety Tips & Resources | Children's Bureau
\(all4kids.org\)](#)

NEW RESOURCE

Family Story Videos

The Department of Developmental Services is happy to announce our new Family Story Videos! The videos provide personal stories from families whose children have received Early Start services. Please visit our website to watch four episodes

[What is Early Start? - CA Department of
Developmental Services](#)