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
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)

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

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)