



The Early Start (ES) program is California's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or at risk for having a developmental disability 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 \(FAQs\)](#)

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

HEALTH & SAFETY CORNER

Baby Bonding Time

Research has shown that the quality time a parent spends with their baby has both short-term and long-term impact. Continue reading more about this topic [here](#).

Vision Problems in Babies

Good eye health is critical in a baby's development and learning. Read more on the [American Optometric Association](#).

Childhood Lead Exposure

Did you know lead exposure can affect a child's developing brain? Lead exposure during childhood is serious, but you can learn more on the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC's\) website](#).

Fireworks and Children

The Fourth of July Holiday is fast approaching, and many families will be celebrating with fireworks. [WebMDs website](#) gives practical tips on how to safely enjoy fireworks.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT EARLY START PILOTS

In 2021, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) received one-time ARPA supplemental federal funds intended for infants and families receiving Early Intervention services.

Currently, there are several pilots being implemented throughout California. Learn more about the [San Diego Regional Center](#) and [Far Northern Regional Center](#) pilots.

TRAININGS AND EVENTS

State Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Meeting Dates and Times:

July 20, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

July 21, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information and to view past meeting notes:

[State Interagency Coordinating Council](#)

Exciting Training Opportunity for

[Early Start Providers](#)

Regional center early intervention service providers and/or their staff are eligible for training reimbursement through September 30, 2023. To learn more, please visit the [Early Start Neighborhood](#).

**Wishing you a happy and safe
Fourth of July!**



RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES & PROFESSIONALS



EARLY START INFORMATION PACKET

With a focus to empower families participating in the ES program, the ES Information Packet was created in April 2023. This free packet is now available on the [DDS website](#) and it has general information, a glossary, contacts and local resources. Also available in Korean, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

AWARENESS CALENDAR 2023

July, August, September

Is your child turning 3 in July, August, or September? If so, talk to your service coordinator to begin planning your child's pre-school options. For more information on our [FAQs](#).

July

Is recognized as the National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month. To learn more, visit the [CDC's official website](#).

August

Is dedicated to eye health. To learn more about Children's Eye Health and Safety month, continue reading [here](#).

September

Since 1958, the International Week of the Deaf is celebrated on the last full week of September. To learn more, [click here](#).

DEAF, HARD OF HEARING CORNER

Prior to 1998, newborn screening was not a requirement unless the baby was considered "high risk". Thanks to advocacy from deaf community leaders, California Assembly Bill 2780 Statutes of 1998 was passed. This law requires hospitals to establish and monitor a hearing screening program. To learn more, [click here](#).

THE LEARNING CORNER

Early Autism Diagnostic Testing

Per recent findings, 1 in every 22 children in California are diagnosed with Autism. The median age of diagnosis is 26 months - much younger than other states. Continue reading [CDC's report](#) available in English and Spanish.

Early Math Skills and Children

Learning is a life-long process. Now, more than ever your child can get assistance with their school preparedness. Want to learn more? Check-out the [PBS SoCal website](#).

It Takes A Village

A new resource for tribal families and tribal children with special needs has been created. Continue reading about the [vast services Acorn to Oak Trees](#) offers.

Medi-Cal for Kids and Teens

Every child has the right to quality health care services and supports. In California, Medi-Cal insurance is the State sponsored health care program. Children, teens and young adults (under age 21) may qualify free of cost. To learn more, [click here](#).

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS NETWORK OF CALIFORNIA

The FRCNCA ensures their Early Start Family Resource Centers staff provides quality services to families. This summer, Early Start Family Resource Centers will offer two nationally adopted, research-based trainings, Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support Certification Trainings. Learn [more here](#).

