



October 2023



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](#)

[Early Start Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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

HEALTH & SAFETY CORNER

Accidental Poisoning in Children

According to a recent report from the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission \(CPSC\)](#), from 2020-2022 thousands of children younger than 5 end up at an emergency room due to accidental poisoning.

Read about the [Top 10 Ways to Poison Proof Your Home](#).

Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RSV)

Certain age groups, such as infants and elderly, are more vulnerable to infections. Learn what are the common symptoms and care for someone with an RSV infection on the [Centers of Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#).

Safe Sleeping Tips for Babies

Babies require extra care and attention especially as it relates to safe sleeping. Ensuring a few safety tips will maximize your baby's comfort and secure their safety. The [First 5 California](#) shares some tips that ensures both a comfortable and safe sleeping environment for your baby.

TRAININGS AND EVENTS

Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention (ICC)

Meeting Dates and Times

October 19, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

October 20, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

For more information and meeting notes:

[State Interagency Coordinating Council](#)

American Sign Language (ASL) and Spanish interpretation is provided.

Exciting Training Opportunity for Early Start Providers

Regional center early intervention service providers and/or their staff are eligible for professional development trainings. Dates have been extended. Please visit the [Early Start Neighborhood](#).

California Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) Network

The California IECMHC Network offers free, confidential consultations and virtual events for all infant and early childhood day care providers. The services are free of charge. For more information, please visit [IECMHC Network website](#). Events are available in English and Spanish.



*Autumn Skies
and Pumpkin
Pies!*



RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES & PROFESSIONALS



PRACTICE GUIDES FOR FAMILIES

Help your child learn and grow with these Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Recommended Practices for assessment, environment, family, instruction, interaction, teaming and collaboration, and transition. View the practice guides from the [Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center](#) website.

TRANSITION TIME?

Is your child turning 3 in November, December or January? If so, talk to your service coordinator to begin planning your child's preschool options. Continue reading our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

Early Start Local Performance Materials

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) submits a State Performance Plan (SPP) of each of the 21 regional centers in California to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Further, the DDS is also required to include an Annual Performance Report (APR) of each regional center and sharing this information with the general public [here](#).

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CORNER

Parents with children who are Deaf or hard of hearing often have many questions about how to best support their children's language development and learning. A bedtime story is just one activity that can be fun and beneficial to support your child's development. Watch the following videos:
[American Society for Deaf Children](#)
[Rocky Mountain Deaf School](#).

THE LEARNING CORNER

Keep Calm and Travel On

When you have a trip that you must take and bring your infant or child along, it can be challenging. If you are traveling, watch a short child safety air travel tips in a video from the [Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\)](#).

Lead by Example

A child's personality and temperament are quick to manifest. Children need adults to model, nurture and support their socio-emotional growth. [The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations](#) website offers free materials on supporting a child's social emotional development. Also available in Spanish.

Now That's Music to the Ears

Music is such a beautiful universal human creation that is enjoyable for all. Music is a great way to soothe a crying baby and stimulate the brain development. Watch a [mini parenting master class](#) for free.

Early Start Family Outcomes Survey

Each year, the DDS sends thousands of family outcomes surveys to randomly selected families receiving Early Start services. The [family outcomes survey](#) information is then integrated into the Annual Performance Report (APR) which is submitted to the OSEP. If you received a survey invitation, please complete it by **October 31, 2023**. Please contact 1-800-515-2229 or email earlystart@dds.ca.gov if you have any questions.



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS NETWORK OF CALIFORNIA

The [FRCNCA](#) ensures that staff at Early Start Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are given access to professional development and connections with professionals in the field. Please watch the [FRCNCA video](#) to learn more about how the FRCs provide support for families.