



EARLY START NEWSLETTER

August 2024



Thank you to all those who joined us on July 16th for the Service Coordinator Day and July 17th and 18th for the Early Start Partners Symposium!



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

FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA

Toddlers may be little in size, but they can come with some big emotions. Check out the [Dragon Song](#) from First 5 California and learn a fun way to help teach young kids to express their anger.

For some additional information and resources for new parents, please also visit the **First 5 California's Parent Guide** [website](#).

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) ON EARLY INTERVENTION

Mark Your Calendars for the Next Meetings!

August 1, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

August 2, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

October 17, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

October 18, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m..

For more information about the ICC visit:
[State Interagency Coordinating Council](#)

EARLY START BABYLINE

If you have concerns about your child's development or would like more information about California's Early Start program,

please call

1-800-515-BABY(2229)

or email:

EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov.

REGIONAL CENTER LOOK UP

Please utilize the [Regional Center Look Up](#) (or [Help Me Grow](#) if located in LA County) to find the Regional Center for your area.

The Early Start Program welcomes you and your family. We are in this journey together.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES & PROFESSIONALS ⁽²⁾

JULY WAS FRAGILE X AWARENESS MONTH

Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is a genetic disorder and one of the most common causes of inherited intellectual disability. While there can be similar traits or tendencies between individuals with FXS, people living with FXS have varying levels of support needs that should be considered for each individual person. People living with FXS have many strengths. For example, some people may have a great sense of humor, some may have incredible memories, and some may be very loyal friends.

Click on the link below to learn more about FXS:
[Fragile X Syndrome \(FXS\)](#)



**JULY 26TH IS
THE 34TH
ANNIVERSARY
OF
[THE AMERICANS
WITH
DISABILITIES
ACT](#)**



TRANSITION TIME

Is your child turning 3 in the next six months? It is time to begin planning your child's transition plan for beyond age 3 and the Early Start program.

To learn more about the transition process, please watch the "[Max Turns 3](#)" video. This video is also accessible in [Spanish](#). Both videos contain sign language insets.

For additional resources please visit:

[Early Start Program Frequently Asked Questions for Parents & Providers](#)

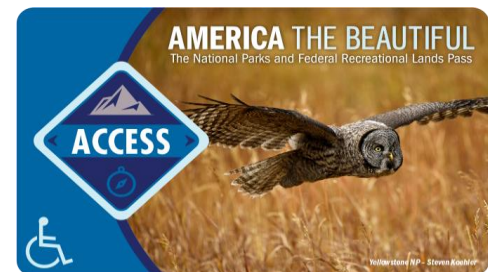
[DDS Early Start Information Packet for Consumers & Families](#)

(Available in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese)

SUMMER FUN:

America the Beautiful: The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Access Pass

Children with permanent disabilities can get a free lifetime pass to visit the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands. The pass is called the Access Pass and is offered to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have physical, mental, or sensory challenges. To apply for the pass, you need to have documentation that proves permanent disability. The pass also allows caregivers to enter the parks for free when accompanying the child. To learn more about how to apply for this National Park pass please visit the [National Parks Services Access Pass website](#). Your regional center can help too.



Great California Attractions for Families with Functional Needs

Family vacations can be overwhelming. Visit California is a great resource to learn more about theme parks, museums and other fun activities that accommodate visitors with disabilities. Please visit the [Visit California website](#) for more information.

Sensory-Friendly Activities in California

There are many sensory-friendly activities available to families throughout California. Please visit the following website to learn more about these events in your area.

[Sensory-Friendly Activities in California](#)

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES & PROFESSIONALS ⁽³⁾

MILITARY ONESOURCE RESOURCES

The National Military Family Association works with Military families to assist them with services through the military's Exceptional Family Member Program.

It is a program that provides support, resources, links, medical referrals, and other services to help the family thrive, become self-advocates, and learn how to acquire the services their family needs so that they can live fulfilling lives.

National Military Family Association
2800 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 250
Alexandria, VA 22314

(703)- 931-6632
info@militaryfamily.org



HELP FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

National Parent Helpline

The [National Parent Helpline](#) is staffed with trained advocates who can offer emotional support, advice, and a listening ear when you need it. To access the hotline please call 1-855-427-2736.

Healthy Families America

[Healthy Families America](#) (HFA) is a national program of Prevent Child Abuse America. HFA is designed to help parents facing challenges such as single parenthood, low income, and childhood history of abuse. Through home visits and check-ins, HFA supports parents with children between the ages of 0-5. Please also call 1-312-663-3520 for additional information.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The California Department of Social Services Housing and Homelessness Division

The State of California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Housing and Homelessness Division has programs to help families that are experiencing the challenges of homelessness with getting resources and supports for their family and children with developmental disabilities. Please visit the [CDSS Housing and Homelessness Division website](#) for more information on these resources.



Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center

Head Start services fill a critical need in rural areas. They support the health of children and families, including those experiencing homelessness. Please visit the Head Start website to locate [resources to help address the health needs of children facing rural homelessness](#).



The [FRCNCA](#) ensures that staff at Early Start Family Resource Centers (FRCs) have access to professional development and connections with professionals in the field. To find the FRC near you, check out the [FRCNCA map](#).

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES & PROFESSIONALS ⁽⁴⁾

RESOURCES FOR EARLY START PERSONNEL

Publications are available to guide Early Start personnel in service coordination, service provision, evidence-based practices, and recommended competencies.

[Early Start Personnel Manual](#): A guide for planning and implementing professional development in support of Early Intervention Services.

[Early Start Statutes and Regulations \(Blue Book\)](#)

[Effective Practice in Providing Family Support Guide](#)

[Service Coordinator Handbook](#)



QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Quality Incentive Program (QIP)



Have you heard about the [Quality Incentive Program \(QIP\)](#)? QIP provides an additional payment to service providers who ensure rapid initiation of services from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

WEARABLE QR CODE FOR ELOPMENT

[If I Need Help](#) offers a wearable QR code with name and contact info in case of elopement. There is no subscription for this product. The caregiver creates an account and uploads the information they want to be available if the wearer is lost or in need of help.



DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING RESOURCES

Helping children develop language and communication skills early on is one of the most important ways caregivers can give their children a stronger start in life. California parents and caregivers of children who are deaf or hard of hearing can access a wealth of support and resources to help their children thrive. This First 5 California article titled [Helping Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Thrive Through Early Intervention and Accessible Environments](#) has many resources for families.



The [Early Start Neighborhood](#) provides a "home base" for Early Start Professionals, and partners seeking training, technical assistance, and resources on early intervention, and evidence-based practices.