

September 30, 2025

Important notice from the Department of Developmental Services about:

Updates to the Early Start Report

C-2025-Early Start-001

What to Know

The Early Start Report (ESR) is the data system for collecting information for infants, toddlers and their families who receive services to address developmental delays or disabilities. These early intervention services are provided through the Early Start Program and coordinated by regional centers. Changes to the ESR system by November 3, 2025 will contribute to improvements in the Early Start Program by collecting more detailed and meaningful data. An updated ESR software guide has been sent to regional centers.

What's Changing

When regional center staff log in to the ESR, they will see the following data field changes:

- The addition of "Self" as a referral option.
- The addition of "Physical gross motor" and "Physical fine motor" in the developmental delay area.
- The addition of "daycare," "remote," and "clinic" to the location of services list.
- The removal of the "Parent Declined" box and an addition of a list of child assessment tools in the child outcomes section.
- Restrictions that will prevent regional centers from entering future dates in the following date fields: Initial Referral, Initial IFSP Meeting, Initial Assessment, Exit Assessment, and Exit. Also, the update will prevent the exit date being prior to child's Initial referral date.