



EARLY START NEWSLETTER

April 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](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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

PART C GRANT APPLICATION

DDS has posted it's IDEA Part C Grant application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023. This year, the Grant application includes California's responses to US Department of Education's questions regarding each state's strategies to identify and address barriers and the steps taken to ensure equitable access to Early Start.

DDS will accept public comment on the application through May 23, 2023. To review the application and provide feedback, please visit our [website](#) for more information.

AWARENESS CALENDAR

- April** World Autism Month
National Deaf History Month
National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Month
- May** Better Hearing & Speech Month
Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week
- June** Global Day of Parents
Family Health and Fitness Month

TRAININGS AND EVENTS

Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention (ICC) Meeting

The theme for April is, "Child Outcomes."

April 20, 2023 from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

April 21, 2023 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

For more information and meeting notes:

[State Interagency Coordinating Council](#)

Early Start Partners Symposium 2023

The Early Start Partners Symposium is an event developed to support Early Start personnel by offering trainings and discussions on topics of critical interest relating to early intervention. This year's event will be held on June 1-2, 2023 in Anaheim, CA. Details on sessions will be available soon!

UPDATED RESOURCES



Service Coordination Handbook

[Chapter 9](#) has been updated! This is a great resource for California's service coordinators to assist them in their daily work.

Early Start Statues & Regulations

This resource (also known as the "Blue Book") is now available on our website. It reflects the new changes to our laws and statues. Please visit [the DDS website](#) or the [Early Start Neighborhood](#) to view and download the updated version.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES



The FRCNCA ensures that staff at Early Start Family Resource Centers are given access to professional development and connections with professionals in the field. [Learn more here](#)

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.

HEALTH & SAFETY CORNER



Allergies

There are many different types of allergies that can affect babies and toddlers, including food allergies, airborne allergens, insect bites, and medications. Continue reading on this important topic on WebMD's [website](#).

Car Seat Safety

Research shows that car seats and booster seats save lives. Tragically, the leading cause of death for children between 1 and 13 years old involves a car crash. You can read additional information about car seat and booster seat safety [here](#).

Pool Safety

As summer approaches, many of us will be by a pool for some fun under the sun. For information on pool safety, please visit [DDS webpage](#) relating to drowning prevention.

THE LEARNING CORNER

Infant and Toddler Nutrition

It is important for infants and toddlers to have proper nutrition for their growth and development.

For tips on good nutrition practices, visit [CDC - Infant & Toddler Nutrition](#).

Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology can help infants and toddlers with disabilities to communicate and learn developmental skills. To learn more about assistive technology, visit the [Pacer Center](#) website.

Telling our Stories

Listen to four families share their unique experiences with California's Early Start Program. Watch the videos [here](#).

TRANSITION TIME?

Is your child turning 3 in May, June, or July? If so, talk to your service coordinator to begin planning your child's preschool options. For more information, see pages 5-7 of our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

WHAT IS A FAMILY DEAF COACH?

A Family Deaf Coach is a highly trained and/or experienced Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) adult who provides families with DHH resources, helps support the child's language development, provide strategies for communication, and much more. Parents of a DHH infant and young child can request a Deaf Coach as part of their Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Education Program (IEP). To view a list of local Deaf Coach Coordinators visit [LEAD-K Family Services](#).

For more information, please contact Cheryl Cheryl@leadkfamilyservices.org