



## **CALIFORNIA EARLY START**

### ***What is the history and mission of California Early Start?***

Since 1980, California state law has mandated that early education programs be available to families with young children. In 1987, Part H (now Part C) was added to the Federal law - the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Part C provides early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. In California, this program is **Early Start**. Part C early intervention mandates include:

- Eligibility criteria and procedures
- Central and local directories of programs and services
- Public awareness programs
- Child find
- IFSP
- Procedural safeguards

The mission of the Early Start program is to promote and enhance a coordinated family-focused service system for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and/or disability, from birth to three years of age.

### ***What is Early Intervention?***

Early intervention in California are services and supports that families may need for their infants or toddlers with disabilities or developmental delay. Early intervention services build upon the natural learning that occurs in the first few years of a child's life and are designed to lessen the effect of the disability.

Early intervention may focus on the child alone or on the child and the family together. Early intervention programs may be center-based, home-based, hospital-based, or a combination. Services range from identification (that is, screening and referral services) to diagnostic and direct intervention programs. Early intervention may begin at any time between birth and three year of age; however, there are many reasons for it to begin as early as possible.

Early intervention during the first years of a child's life can make a big difference in the future of that child. Learning during the preschool years is the most rapid. Providing intervention early helps assure that the child will not miss opportunities to learn when he or she is "most ready" to learn. Research over some 50 years indicates that early intervention increases the developmental and educational gains for a child, improves the functioning of the family, and reaps long-term benefits for society.

## ***What state wide agencies administer the Early Start Program?***

In California, early intervention services for infants and toddlers birth through 3 are administered via federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C) and state law (S.B. 1085, the California Early Intervention Services Act). These laws charge the California **Department of Developmental Services** and **Regional Centers** and the **California Department of Education** and **Local Educational Agencies** with administration and provision of services for infants and toddlers.

## ***Who can receive Early Start services?***

In California, an infant or toddler is eligible for early intervention services if he or she is between birth and thirty-six months of age and meets one of the following criteria:

- **Developmental delay** exists if there is a significant difference between the infant's current level of functioning and the level that might be expected for infants his or her age. The delay can occur in one or more areas of development.
- **Established risk** exists when an infant or toddler has a known medical condition which most likely will result in delay; or, when the infant has a **solely low incidence disability** such as vision, hearing, orthopedic impairment, or a combination of these.
- **High risk for developmental delay** exists when a developmental evaluation reveals that an infant or toddler has a combination of two or more factors that most likely will result in developmental delay and which require early intervention service.

## ***How is an infant or toddler referred for Early Start services?***

- To refer an infant or toddler with developmental delay, established risk, or high risk, who resides in Hermosa Beach SD, Manhattan Beach USD, Palos Verdes Peninsula USD, Redondo Beach USD, or Redondo Beach USD, call **Harbor Regional Center** (310) 540-1711 and ask for Early Start Intake.
- To refer an infant or toddler with developmental delay, established risk, or high risk who resides in El Segundo USD, Hawthorne SD, Inglewood USD, Lawndale SD, Lennox SD or Wiseburn SD, call **Westside Regional Center** (310) 649-1024 and ask for Early Start Intake.
- To refer an infant or toddler who has a **low incidence disability (solely or in combination with developmental delay)** and who resides in any of the SW SELPA school districts, call Mary Ann Clark, Coordinator Early Start (310) 798-2965. A subsequent phone contact/referral can be made to the youngster's local school

1. Complete the **SW SELPA Interdistrict Request for Service** with accompanying documentation (see instructions on page 9 and 10. Fax a copy of the completed and signed form to Mary Ann Clark (310) 798-2978. **DO NOT** complete the **Preliminary Referral Information**. This form is not required. Mary Ann Clark will act as the Interim Service Coordinator and contact families within two days of the “known” referral to provide information regarding Early Start services.
2. JET MAIL or U.S. MAIL the original **SW SELPA Interdistrict Request for Service** and accompanying referral information (see page 9, #6 A – H) to Mary Ann Clark SW SELPA 1401 Inglewood Avenue Redondo Beach, CA 90278.  
**DO NOT** send any information to Downey.
3. As part of the screening process, LACOE will provide vision and hearing screening to Solely Low Incidence infants and toddlers, within the 45-calendar day referral period.
4. The referral process and all IFSP services are year-round.

### **SW SELPA School District Early Start Liaisons**

El Segundo USD	Jen Troccoe	(310) 615-2650, x. 235; (310) 322-7939 (Fax)
Hawthorne SD	Jane Kihara	(310) 970-7550; (310) 970-7555 (Fax)
Hermosa Beach City SD	Jen Camacho	(310) 937-5888, x 239; (310) 376-4974 (Fax)
Inglewood USD	Ramón Germán	(310) 680-5325, x 1; (310) 680-6318 (Fax)
Lawndale SD	Special Ed. Office	(310) 973-1300; (310) 263-6496 (Fax)
Lennox SD	Diana Limon	(310) 695-4000; (310) 671-1795 (Fax)
Manhattan Beach USD	Kim Johnson	(310) 318-7345, x 5967; (310) 303-3826 (Fax)
Palos Verdes Peninsula USD	Shirley Resich	(310) 791-5078, x 0; (310) 378-1971 (Fax)
Redondo Beach USD	Birgit Braue	(310) 798-8650, x 3230; (310) 798-8662 (Fax)
Torrance USD	Roshelle Chavez	(310) 972-6500, x 2552; (310) 381-1330 (Fax)
Wiseburn SD	Diana Bowlby	(310) 643-3006, x 1; (310) 643-3013 (Fax)

### ***What Early Start services can be provided?***

Early intervention services are based on the infant’s eligibility and the needs of the family. Early Start services may include:

- Assistive technology devices/services
- Audiology (hearing) services
- Family training, counselling, and home visits
- Some health services
- Medical services for diagnostic or evaluative purposes only

- Nursing
- Nutrition counselling
- Occupational Therapy and/or Physical Therapy
- Psychological services
- Respite
- Service coordination (case management)
- Social work services
- Special instruction
- Speech and language services
- Transportation services and related costs necessary to enable a child and family to receive early intervention services
- Vision services
- Others as needed

***Where are the Southwest SELPA's Early Start Programs?***

All infants with a solely low incidence disability are served in programs operated by Los Angeles County Office of Education as coordinated and directed by the SW SELPA. These programs are as follows:

***Services for infants and toddlers  
with orthopedic impairments:***

***FIRST STEPS & Beyond*** (Supporting Toddlers (Infants & Families with) Education, Play & Services)

**Imperial PAU:** Marsha Schulz, Principal  
540 E. Imperial Avenue El Segundo 90245  
Phone: (310) 606-0240  
Fax: (310) 606-5630

**Imperial School** Priority placement for northern school districts with exceptions made due to extenuating circumstances  
Kathleen Davis, Teacher & Service Coordinator  
Phone: (310) 606-0240  
Fax: (310) 606-5630

**Larson-West PAU:** Joe Godfrey, Principal  
4141W. 156<sup>th</sup> Street Lawndale 90260  
Phone: (310) 679-9705  
Fax: (310) 676-2763

**Jefferson School** Priority placement for southern school districts with exceptions made due to extenuating circumstances

Jennifer Wheeler, Teacher & Service Coordinator  
Phone: (310) 376-7921, Ext. 1  
Fax: (310) 379-0344

**Services are center-based and in-home and in coordination with  
California Children's Services (CCS)**

***Services for infants & toddlers with  
vision impairment or blindness***

***B.R.A.I.L.L.E.*** (Building Rapport and Information with Loving Lessons for  
Exceptional Children)

**Imperial PAU:** Marjorie Rudy, Assistant Principal  
SW Support Services Center, Building A  
1501 S. Peck Avenue, Manhattan Beach 90266  
Phone: (310) 546-2329  
Fax: (310) ???-????

**Southwest Support Service Center**

Ellen Ferguson, Teacher & Service Coordinator  
SW Support Services Center, Building ??  
1501 S. Peck Avenue, Manhattan Beach 90266  
Phone: (310) 373-7759, Ext. 207  
Fax: (310) ???-????

Joe Snead, Orientation & Mobility Specialist  
Phone: (310) 373-7759, Ext. 205  
Fax: (310) ???-????

**In-home services are provided in coordination with Braille Institute**

***Services for infants & toddlers who are  
deaf or hard of hearing impairments***

**Larson-West PAU:** Joe Godfrey, Principal  
4141W. 156<sup>th</sup> Street Lawndale 90260  
Phone: (310) 679-9705  
Fax: (310) 676-2763

**Larson-West Regional Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program**

**CONNECT Program** (Collaborative Opportunities for Networking and Nurturing Education and Communication for Toddlers)

**Anderson School**

Linda Campbell, Teacher & Service Coordinator  
4141 W. 156<sup>th</sup> Street Room G Lawndale 90260  
Phone: (310) 644-0269  
Fax: (310) 679-2763

**REACH Program I** (Realizing Early Achievement in Children's Hearing)  
For children with cochlear implants

**Wood School**

Beth Freed, Teacher & Service Coordinator  
Sue Reyes, Audiologist  
Jessica Baer, Speech/Language Pathologist  
2250 W. 235<sup>th</sup> Street Torrance 90501  
Phone: (310) 325-7489  
Fax: (310) 325-7529

**REACH Program II** (Realizing Early Achievement in Children's Hearing)  
For children with unilateral hearing loss (atresia or mild to moderate loss in one ear)

**Wood School**

Camyn Rapaport, Teacher & Service Coordinator  
Sue Reyes, Audiologist  
Jessica Baer, Speech/Language Pathologist  
2250 W. 235<sup>th</sup> Street Torrance 90501  
Phone: (310) 325-7489  
Fax: (310) 325-7529

**In addition to the center-based programs, in-home services and audiology services are provided**

## ***Resources for additional Early Start information***

### **California Department of Developmental Services (DDS)**

#### **Children and Family Services Branch**

1600 9<sup>th</sup> Street, MS 3-8  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Phone: (916) 654-2773  
TTY: (916) 654-2054  
Fax: (916) 654-3255

**BabyLine** - a toll-free number and web site, which provides information

Phone: (800) 515-BABY

Web Site: [www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart)

### **Early Start Complaint Unit**

Phone: (916) 654-1888

Fax: (916) 651-8210

Web Site: [www.dds.ca.gov/complaints/complt\\_home.cfm](http://www.dds.ca.gov/complaints/complt_home.cfm)

### **Regional Centers**

#### **Harbor Regional Center**

21231 Hawthorne Blvd  
Torrance, California 90503  
Phone: (310) 540-1711  
Tollfree: (888) 540-1711  
Fax: (310) 316-8843  
Web Site: [www.harborrc.org](http://www.harborrc.org)

#### **Harbor Regional Center Family and Professional Resource Center**

21231 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Torrance, California 90503  
Contact: Barbara del Monico  
Phone: (310) 543-0691  
Fax: (310) 540-8471  
E-Mail: [Barbarad@hddf.com](mailto:Barbarad@hddf.com); or  
[FRC-library@hddf.com](mailto:FRC-library@hddf.com)

#### **South Bay Cities Early Intervention Coordinating Council**

Serves Southwest SELPA's school districts and meets at various locations

Contact: Valerie Dawson (HRC) (310) 543-0691

#### **Westside Regional Center**

5901 Green Valley Circle, Suite 320  
Culver City, California 90230  
Phone: (310) 258-4000

Fax: (310) 258-0571  
Web Site: [www.westsiderc.org](http://www.westsiderc.org)

**Westside Family Empowerment Center**

5901 Green Valley Circle, Suite 320  
Culver City, California 90230  
Contact: Liz Spencer  
Phone: (310) 258-4063  
Fax: (310) 338-9664  
E-Mail: [lspencer@westsiderc.org](mailto:lspencer@westsiderc.org)

**California Department of Education – Special Education Div. (CDE/SED)**

Phone: (916) 445-4613 TTY: (916) 323-9779  
PARENT INFORMATION LINE: (800) 434-2465  
Fax: (916) 327-3516  
Web Site: [www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed](http://www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed)

**Southwest SELPA**

1401 Inglewood Avenue  
Redondo Beach, California 90278  
Bob Farran, Director  
Phone: (310) 798-2731  
Fax: (310) 798-2978

**Special Education Family Resource Center**

1401 Inglewood Avenue  
Redondo Beach, California 90278  
Contact: Mary Ann Clark or Christy Cole  
Phone: (310) 798-2965  
Fax: (310) 798-2978  
E-Mail: [sw\\_frc@lacoed.edu](mailto:sw_frc@lacoed.edu)

***Additional Resources for Early Start Information***

- Los Angeles County Office of Education Early Intervention Support Services  
Contact: Cyndi Ryan – Coordinator in Charge  
Phone: (562) 922-6257
- California Early Intervention Technical Assistance Network  
(CEI\*TAN)  
(916) 492-4000
- California Early Intervention Library Resources in Special Education (RISE)  
Contact: Meg Schroeder  
Phone: (800) 869-4337
- California Department of Education

Special Education Division  
515 L Street, Suite 270  
Sacramento, California 95814