



EARLY START NEWSLETTER

January 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](#)

AWARENESS CALENDAR

January 2023

January is National Birth Defects Awareness Month. Please visit the March of Dimes [website](#) to help raise awareness of birth defects and their **impact on individuals, parents, and families.**

February 2023

The entire month of February is Children's Dental Health Awareness Month. Read ahead to learn more about what you can do to help your child.

March 2023

National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month are observed throughout the month of March.

Other Awareness Days:

- Jan. 4** World Braille Day
- Feb. 13** Epilepsy Day
- Feb. 28** Rare Disease Day
- Mar. 21** Down Syndrome Day

TRAININGS AND EVENTS



Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention (ICC) Meeting

Dates and Times:

January 19, 2023 from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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

For more information and meeting notes:

[State Interagency Coordinating Council](#)

Talking with a Family about ASD

A training for Early Start Providers

January 26, 2023

[\(click here to register\)](#)

For more information visit:

[California Early Start Network](#)

Annual Statewide Love and Literacy Day

Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids

March 4, 2023

For event locations and to learn more, visit:

[LEAD-K Family Services](#)

Beginning Together

Training of Trainers sessions are offered for those who train early childhood staff on inclusive practices.

Meetings will be held every Thursday in March

For more information and to register, visit:

[Inclusion Facilitator Institute](#)

Free Training Opportunities Available to Early Start Providers through the Early Start Providers Training Initiative

To learn more about eligibility, please visit:

[Early Start Neighborhood](#)

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES



[Family Resource Centers Network of California](#)

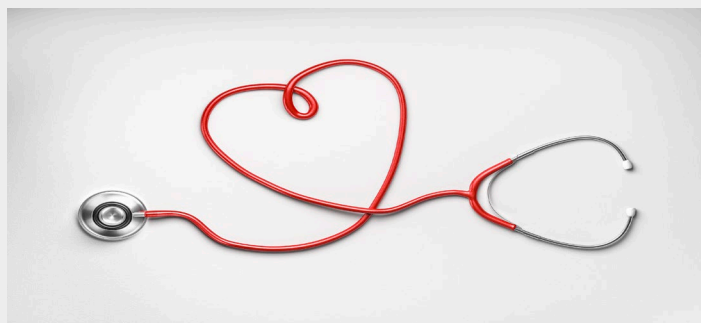
The FRCNCA ensures that staff at Early Start Family Resource Centers are given access to professional development and connections with professionals in the field.



Neighborhood

The Early Start Neighborhood is getting a new look! CEITAN-Early Start and the Early Start Neighborhood are merging. Visit and explore the new website [here](#).

HEALTH CORNER



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a common respiratory virus that causes cold-like symptoms. Learn what actions to take to slow the spread of RSV here: [RSV \(Respiratory Syncytial Virus\)](#).

Children's Dental Health

Practicing good dental health with your child and visiting the dentist regularly helps prevent tooth decay and cavities. Visit [National Children's Dental Health Month](#) for more information.

Feeding Tube Awareness Week

The [Feeding Tube Awareness Foundation](#) designated a week in February as a means of supporting parents of children who are tube-fed, and to raise awareness of tube feeding as a lifesaving medical intervention.

THE LEARNING CORNER

Natural Environment

Young children tend to thrive and do their best when they are in familiar surroundings and with people or objects that are most dear to them. Click [here](#) to learn more about the natural environment.

Reading to Infants and Toddlers

The first years of life are critical for a child's language development. Visit [Tips for Reading to Infants and Toddlers](#) to learn what you can do to help.

Baby Sign Language

Learning sign language can help children and adults eliminate communication barriers. Watch this [video](#) to learn baby sign language basics.

FAMILY OUTCOMES SURVEY

The Family Outcomes Survey is a 20-question survey that can be completed online or via paper. DDS uses the survey results to learn about your experience and help improve the Early Start program. If you would like to share your Early Start program experience, please complete the survey located here:

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

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

Senate Bill 210 is a state legislature and includes mandated early language development milestones for Deaf babies ages 0-5 to ensure kindergarten readiness for literacy by providing families of Deaf infants with a Parent Profile. The Parent Profile is designed to help families track their Deaf child's language growth. You can find the Parent Profile [here](#).