#### What is Early Intervention?

Parents and professionals work together to help infants and toddlers develop and learn. The core of the program is the belief that the parent is the first and best teacher for their child.



Children learn and grow at their own rate. While some children may need extra help through their critical developmental stage, there are plenty of resources to aid in their learning and growth. Since infants and toddlers grow and learn quickly, it is important to get the necessary help as early as possible if you or your doctor have any concerns about your child's development.



The EARLY START Program at Kern Regional Center provides services and support for infants, toddlers, and their families so that they may learn fundamental activities and routines that are important for development. Learning happens in the every day moments you share with your child as well as the special memories you create with them.

### Who can make a referral?

Anyone can make a referral, including: health care providers, hospital social workers, family members, foster parents, and day care providers. As a parent you can refer your child to the EARLY START Program if you suspect a concern with your child's development. Parents must then give permission to have their child evaluated.

#### How will I know if my child qualifies for services?

After speaking with an Intake Coordinator, they will determine if there is a concern regarding your child's development, and an appointment for an assessment will be scheduled with you and your child.

During this appointment they will consider the following: information you have given, the results from the Developmental Assessment, and observation of your child to determine whether your child needs assistance with their development and learning.

# What happens next if my child is eligible for the program?

Your child will be a assigned a Service Coordinator who will work with you to develop a plan based on your concerns, the results of the assesment, and team disucssions. The plan will have goals for working with you to help your child do things that are important to their development. This plan is called the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The ISFP also lists the services that are needed to meet your goals.



Depending on family income, an Annual Fee may be required. Some services may be funded through your insurance. There is no cost for assessment, evaluation, or Service Coordination.

#### What services will be provided?

In addition to service coordination, there a variety of services and supports; each are based on the individual need of the child and family; however, the purpose of all early intervention services is to help you learn ways to aid your child in their learning and development. learn ways to encourage be focused on your child's social/emotional development.



Building that relationship only "takes a minute" but the results will last a lifetime. For more information please visit



earlystartneighborhood.ning.com

"Our values are guided by our commitment to serve our clients and all who serve them"

### What to do if you are concerned about your child's development

•Talk to your child's healthcare provider

•Research the Reasons for Concern at <u>www.dds.ca.gov</u>

•Contact us at one of the numbers below. We will be happy to provide information and answer questions about Kern Regional Center, the Early Start Program, and all other services.

To speak to an EARLY START Intake Coordinator please call:

#### **Kern Regional Center**

Main Office: (661) 852-3220

Ridgecrest Branch Office: (760) 375-9512

> Toll free number: (800) 887-5702



Use this space to write your appointment time, what papers to bring, and keep track of any questions you may have.

EARLY START is a state and federally funded program managed by state agencies, under the direction of the Department of Developmental Services, per Part C of IDEA. For more info go to <u>www.dds.ca.gov</u>



Striving to Achieve Equality, Independence and Empowerment

## **Early Start Program**

Providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers birth to 36 months of age

> 3200 N. Sillect Avenue Bakersfield Ca 93308 (661)327-8531

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The period from birth to three years of age is a critical time in a child's life. The EARLY START rogram is available to provide services and support to those infants and toddlers that may need extra help during this critical time in their development.