

Nevada 2018

Our Children



“We see how early childhood experiences are so important to lifelong outcomes, How the early environment literally becomes embedded in the brain and changes its architecture”. —

***Dr. Andrew S. Garner, MD, PhD,
University Hospitals of Cleveland
(2013)***

Early Intervention Services in Nevada



WHAT IS EARLY INTERVENTION?

Early intervention is a system of coordinated services and supports for eligible children from birth to three years of age with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. Early intervention promotes the child's growth and development and supports families in meeting the developmental needs of their child. Early Intervention Services are mandated through Public Law 108-446, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA).

Nevada's Early Intervention system encourages family participation, ensures parents are fully informed and provide consent for all evaluations and services. From the determination of eligibility until children transition at age three, Nevada programs strive to support families through family-centered and family-friendly practices.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF EARLY INTERVENTION?

Over the years, researchers have discovered a variety of ways children learn and develop, as well as the importance of early intervention. Scientific studies have documented what occurs in the brain during a child's first years of life, and can now predict what can give a child the best chance of success, thereby improving quality of life, including:

- A child's brain develops faster during the critical years from birth to three than at any other time and early intervention has a definite impact.
- Through early intervention, the long-term health of infants and toddlers with disabilities is improved, reducing the health costs of preventable secondary impairments and disabilities.
- Early intervention is known to decrease educational costs by minimizing the need for long-term special education and related services.
- Early intervention is cost-effective because it enables families to provide care for their children within their home, reducing the need for costly institutional care while maximizing the child's potential for independence.
- Research shows that children with developmental delays are healthier and learn better when they receive services as early in their lives as possible.

"an early intervention program costing \$6,730 per child generated a return on investment of \$47,759 for each child. This means that for every \$1 invested, \$7.10 was returned to society in the form of decreased expenditures." (When similar services for 2nd & 3rd graders were analyzed, results showed a return of only \$1.66 for every \$1 invested.) — [AMA, 5/8/01, vol. 285, no.18]

The brain grows at an amazing rate during development. At times during brain development, 250,000 neurons are added every minute! At birth, almost all the neurons that the brain will ever have are present. However, the brain continues to grow for a few years after birth. By the age of 2 years, the brain is about 80% of its adult size. — Neuroscience for Kids, University of Washington

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES MAY INCLUDE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ◇ Assistive technology devices and services
- ◇ Audiology services
- ◇ Family training, counseling and home visits
- ◇ Health & Nutrition services
- ◇ Multi-disciplinary evaluations and assessments
- ◇ Occupational therapy
- ◇ Physical therapy
- ◇ Psychological services
- ◇ Service coordination
- ◇ Specialized Instruction
- ◇ Speech and language services
- ◇ Social work services
- ◇ Vision and mobility services
- ◇ Other Services, eg. Transportation, Respite Care, etc.

In most cases, by law all early intervention services must be provided in natural settings for children including the family home, child day care settings and other places in the community where typically developing children spend time.

Read the [Parent Handbook](#) for more information at:

http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/

State Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Public Law 99-457, Nevada's Governor established the Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) in 1987. All members of the ICC are appointed by the Governor. The Council's primary mission is to advise and assist the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in the development and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF NEVADA'S ICC?

The ICC provides support to the State in the development and implementation of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Nevada's SSIP is a five (5) year plan designed to ensure the system of early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA results in improved outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The primary target of the SSIP plan should be improved social and emotional outcomes.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Early Intervention Services System in Nevada! For the second year in a row, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced the U.S. Department of Education has determined Nevada meets the requirements and purposes of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The determination of meets requirements is the highest of four possible performance levels. It is a credit to everyone in Nevada who works to ensure supports are available to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The letter of acknowledgment can be accessed at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Publications/>

"Human brains grow most rapidly just after birth and reach half their adult size within three months," according to a study published in JAMA Neurology (2014)

Nevada ICC Members

Ben Kieckhefer, Senator

Nevada Legislature Representative

Sherry Waugh, (ICC Co-Chair) Head Start Agency Representative, Early Head Start, UNR

Lisa Cridland (ICC Co-Chair), ICC Parent Representative — Southern Nevada

Jason Adams, ICC Parent Representative — Southern Nevada

Vacant, ICC Parent Representative — Southern Nevada

Janina Easley, ICC Parent Representative — Rural Nevada

Christine Riggi, ICC Parent Representative — Northern Nevada

Aimee Hadleigh, ICC Parent Representative — Northern Nevada

Robin Kincaid, Advocacy Representative Nevada P.E.P.

Yasodara Cabrera, Advocacy Representative Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center

Sherry Manning, Advocacy Representative Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

Karen Shaw, Native American Representative Washoe County School District

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Ph.D., Personnel Preparation Rep., College of Education, Special Education, UNLV

Ashley Greenwald, Ph.D., UNR Nevada Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Rep.

Keana Sullivan, Private Provider Representative Nevada Early Intervention-Nellis Child Development

Yvonne Moore, Private Provider Representative Nevada Early Intervention-Positively Kids

Sandra LaPalm, Public Provider Representative Nevada Early Intervention Services-Northeast Region

Claribel Zecena, Public Provider Representative Nevada Early Intervention Services-Northwest Region

Dawn Brooks, Public Provider Representative Nevada Early Intervention Services-Southern Region

Vacant, Provision of, or Payment for, Early Intervention Services—Rep., Aging & Disability Services Division

Jack Zenteno, State Medicaid Representative Division of Health Care Financing and Policy

Reesha Powell, State Foster Care Representative Division of Child and Family Services

Vacant, Child Care Agency Representative Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Kimberly Everett, Health Insurance Agency Representative, State Division of Insurance

Rhonda Lawrence, Early Childhood Mental Health Rep., Division of Child and Family Services

Daina Loeffler, 619 Coordinator/Preschool Services Representative, Nevada Department of Education

Vacant, Office of the Education of Homeless Children Representative, Nevada Department of Education

HOW DOES THE ICC ACCOMPLISH ITS DESIGNATED GOALS?

The ICC must meet at least quarterly and is supported by the IDEA Part C Office. Additionally, ICC members participate in various other activities to accomplish its tasks. Public input is welcome and families are always encouraged to participate. If you would like more information, contact **Project ASSIST** at 1-800-522-0066 / ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or visit the website at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Home>.

Why should parents be involved...

When you are involved, you gain experience in communication and leadership and it helps you to get useful information and answers to questions you may have. By actively participating and interacting with others, you can choose to make a difference in the lives of many young children with special needs and their families. One voice can make a difference!

Below is just one of many opportunities in Nevada to...



- Provide valuable input from a parent's perspective,
- Assist in the development of program policies and
- Help shape and create a better system for all children receiving Early Intervention Services!

Nevada's Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) established the **"Family Support Resource Subcommittee" (FSRS)**. This committee supports ICC activities and helps ensure the ICC responds to issues important to families, strengthens and broadens family involvement at all policy and service levels, increases ICC communication with families, provides public awareness support, and identifies and supports efforts to improve early intervention services and programs within communities. There are also other opportunities for participation on various subcommittees, ad hoc committees, task forces and work groups.

Information may be requested by contacting Project ASSIST.

1-800-522-0066

or email:

ProjectASSIST@dhhs.nv.gov



Ask for evaluations for your child. Ask for second opinions. Ask how you can advocate. Ask how you can get involved. We need more parents on councils asking for the things we and our children need. And we all have different needs. We come from different cultural backgrounds, have different disabilities, different experiences with the system. Lastly, if you are not able to serve on a board, the other important thing I've learned while being on the ICC is this wonderful and underused thing called 'public comment'. That means that anyone, yes anyone, can come to an ICC meeting and speak during this time, though you have to fill out a card. Nothing can be acted on, but your voice will be heard. And we are lacking the voices of so many families. So please. Please ask. It's your right." — Aimee Hadleigh, ICC Parent Representative-Northwestern Nevada



"I would compare my membership on the Nevada' Early Intervention INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) to the African proverb, 'It takes a village to raise a child'. The ICC is part of my "village" of knowledge and experience. I learn from them and they learn from me. Together our goal is to help children and families build strong, functional, happy, healthy villages." — Janina Easley, ICC Parent Representative-Northeastern Nevada

"The opportunity to diagnose and thus begin treatment for autism around a child's first birthday has enormous potential to change outcomes for children affected with the disorder." — Karen Pierce, PhD, Assistant Professor, UC San Diego Department of Neurosciences (2011)

December 2017

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Project ASSIST

Nevada's Central Directory for Resources & Information

1-800-522-0066 or ProjectASSIST@dhhs.nv.gov

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

January 2018

February 2018

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Project ASSIST is Nevada's Central Directory for families of young children with disabilities or special health care needs, as well as agencies, organizations and programs that serve them.



In SFY 2017, 834 calls for information or resources were received by Project ASSIST, and 295 referrals to Early Intervention were made.

Information is available on a variety of resources, including:

- parent support groups,
- early intervention programs for infants and toddlers,
- preschool special education services,
- education, health and social services,
- therapy,
- advocacy organizations,
- financial and legal assistance,
- and many other services.

There is no cost for this service.

There is a growing body of evidence that early intervention services have a positive influence on the developmental outcome of children with established disabilities as well as those who are considered to be "at risk" of disabilities. — American Academy of Pediatrics (2007)

For more information:

Project ASSIST

1-800-522-0066

ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<p>www.circleofinclusion.org The Circle of Inclusion website is for early childhood service providers and families of young children. This site offers demonstrations of and information about effective practices of inclusive educational programs for children from birth through age eight.</p>		

*Birth Defects Prevention Month
 Eye Health Care Month
 National Mentoring Month
 Volunteer Blood Donor Month*



"It has been a pleasure being a part of the Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC). Being a parent and a member of the ICC Committee has really educated me. This experience has helped me and others to advocate for our children with disabilities. As a parent we are the most important advocate for our children. I would highly recommend that parents get involved with the ICC and/or its subcommittees." — Lisa Cridland, ICC Parent Representative-Southern Nevada

"I currently sit as a parent rep on two Nevada Boards - Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), and Persons with Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Speech Impairments Board. I hope my lifelong experiences will help others to be more proactive with education and policies put in place for all of our special needs kids so that they too can become successful citizens." — Jason Adams, "new" ICC Parent Representative-Southern Nevada



"Being a member of Nevada's Early Intervention INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) and representing parents across Nevada has given me great insight on the perspectives of the individuals that have dedicated their lives to providing children with quality care. This has helped me by having open relationships with care providers and giving me confidence to be able to ask any question, knowing that they truly want to help." — Christine Riggi, ICC Parent Representative-Northwestern Nevada



Building the Next Generation of Leaders. . .

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, formerly Partners in Policymaking, a very intense and innovative national model of leadership training, is designed to teach parents and self-advocates the power of advocacy and to change the way people with disabilities are supported, viewed, taught, live and work. It is done in eight (8) sessions, one per month for eight months.

Participants gain:

- **Valuable working knowledge on disability issues** and information on resources available in their community.
- **Advocacy skills.**
- **New relationships** with people who have the same interests as you.

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM is all about...

- **Leadership skills** and developing positive partnerships with elected officials and other individuals who make policy decisions about services that you and/or your family use.
- **Systems change**—creating, working towards, and achieving a vision of shared values about people with disabilities.
- **Becoming confident** in oneself, competent in the knowledge and information received, and comfortable in sharing the life experiences and expertise one brings to the table.

For information contact 775-682-9060

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

A Program of UNR

**NEVADA CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE
IN DISABILITIES**



...Services [early intervention] to young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays have been shown to positively impact outcomes across developmental domains, including health, language and communication, cognitive development and social/emotional development. . . Families benefit by being able to better meet their children's special needs from an early age and throughout their lives... — The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, April 2011 Fact Sheet

January 2018

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Project ASSIST

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February 2018

March 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
http://idea.ed.gov The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law ensuring services to children with disabilities throughout the nation. Infants and toddlers with disabilities (birth to age 3) and their families receive early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA. This site was created to provide a "one-stop shop" for resources and information.				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Angelman Syndrome Day	16	17
18	19 President's Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	http://www.thearc.org/ The Arc is committed to all people with developmental disabilities, and works to develop programs, funding and public policy that will assist them in realizing their goals of learning, living, working, worshiping and playing in the community.		

Public Awareness is designed to notify the public of the availability of early intervention services in the State system.

There were 7,108 referrals to Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 17. That is 212 more referrals than in SFY16.

The **Nevada Child Find Project** is a statewide system that serves two primary functions. First, it is designed to identify unserved children who are eligible for early intervention services. The project's other focus is to provide information to the general public, physicians, childcare providers, hospitals and health care providers about early childhood development, and how to make referrals for early intervention services.

"Age of intake had a significant impact on the results of the behavioral program. The younger the child was at intake of the program, the greater the impact the early intervention behavioral program had on their abilities." — Makrygianni, M. K., & Reed, P. (2010), Research In Autism Spectrum Disorders.

If you know of a child who may be eligible for services,

call
Project ASSIST
1-800-522-0066

*American Heart Month
 Children's Dental Health Month
 Parent Leadership Month*

Foundation for Positively

Kids' Early Intervention Program is committed to providing an environment that will have a positive effect on the growth and development of young children with disabilities or special health care needs.

Programs offered by Positively Kids strive to embrace each child's unique needs while providing the services essential to their well being and happiness. Vital to the success of every program we provide is its ability to achieve these goals:

- *Help children reach their full potential*
- *Create hope and foster inclusion*
- *Promote comfort and quality of life*

**For more information
Contact**

Project ASSIST



Sterling

Soon you will be receiving, or already have received, the annual family survey. Please take the time to fill it out and turn it in. We want the best information possible about the ways in which early intervention services may or may not have helped your family. The results of this survey will help guide efforts to improve services and outcomes for children and families across Nevada receiving early intervention services.

If you have questions call us at Project Assist 1-800-522-0066 or email ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

"This is our Sterling Jay! He is 13 months old and ready for an adventure and fun! He was diagnosed with Down Syndrome (DS) 10 days after he was born. We did not get "the test" because for us it wasn't going to change our decision anyways. A few hours after he was born, my husband (who is a Firefighter/ Paramedic), suspected that Sterling may have Down Syndrome. He noticed all the signs that were physically visible and that he also had extremely low tone. The Doctors, Nurses, and the Pediatrician at the hospital had said nothing to us about this possibility. My husband brought it up to them and they tested Sterling and we waited 10 days for the results. The hospital never once suggested any resources or counseling to help us and or to guide us where to go for help.

After we confirmed that he had DS, we did research ourselves and we contacted early intervention and we chose to work with Positively Kids and it has been nothing short of an amazing adventure already!

Our Service Coordinator directed us in the right direction by connecting us with our PT, our OT, and our feeding & speech therapist. These professionals have become an important part of our lives and we appreciate them dearly! They have always treated Sterling like their own child and do everything in their power to help him succeed each and every time they visit!

What we feared when we found out that Sterling had DS at 10 days old has now long dissipated and we are grateful and thankful for early intervention with Positively Kids. We along with Sterling's siblings, Savannah (3) and Sebastian (18), cherish our little blessing and look forward to the exciting adventures that lay ahead!! He is just a joy and delight each and every day and makes our hearts smile in ways we never could have ever imagined without him!" — Mom

<http://dsnnn.org/>

Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada (DSNNN) is a network of individuals with Down syndrome, their parents, families and friends, offering support, direction, services and resources to individuals and families affected by Down syndrome.

<http://www.dsosn.org/>

Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada (DSOSN) promotes a positive understanding of Down syndrome in the community and is a source of support, information and education for families and individuals affected by Down syndrome.

"...consistent evidence has been found indicating that comprehensive early intervention programs are able to prevent much of the decline in intellectual development for children with Down's syndrome that typically occurs during the first few years of life." — Guralnick, M. J. (2005). Journal Of Applied Research In Intellectual Disabilities

February 2018

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March 2018

April 2018

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<p>www.cpparentnetwork.org It was so nice to meet other families who "just got it". No explaining what was "the matter" with our children or anyone saying, "I just don't know how you do it". — Nevada Cerebral Palsy Parent Network</p>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight Saving Time begins	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21 World Down Syndrome Day	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NGCDD



Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities' mission is to provide resources at the community level which promote equal opportunity and life choices for people with disabilities through which they may positively contribute to Nevada society. The Council utilizes strategies such as training, educating policy makers and communities, coalition development, barrier elimination, and demonstration of new approaches to service.

The Council encourages and supports advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that contribute to a coordinated, consumer driven, family-centered and family-directed, comprehensive system that includes needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination for all individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, helping them to be productive, integrated and included in all facets of community life.

For more information contact:
(775) 684-8619
www.nevadaddcouncil.org

www.p2pusa.org
Parent to Parent-USA
 is a national alliance of Parent to Parent (P2P) programs with the primary purpose of supporting emerging or established Parent to Parent programs.

*Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month
 Intellectual & Developmental
 Disability Awareness Month
 Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month*

Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) – Northeast Region provides family-centered early intervention services and supports to rural communities in Pershing, Humboldt, Upper Nye, Lander, Eureka, Elko, and White Pine counties.

NEIS provides most services in homes or community-based environments for children with developmental delays and their families. They recognize the important role of the family in a young child's development and assist parents in their natural role as teachers to help meet their child's special needs.

**For more information
Contact
Project ASSIST**



Trinity

"My daughter Trinity was born at 26 weeks' gestation weighing 1 pound 14 ounces and 14 inches long. We were blessed with our beautiful daughter in June of 2016 and she stayed in the Boise, ID, Newborn Intensive Care Unit (N.I.C.U.) for 190 days. After many weeks of ups and downs, tests, doctors, oxygen machines, and several different incubators we finally got to come home on October 8th, 2016.

Trinity came home with a feeding G-Tube which was surgically placed in her stomach and she needed to eat every three hours. She also came home with a common retina issue which is called ROP; meaning her retinas were very underdeveloped. We traveled once a month to Salt Lake to have her vision checked after we returned home, until her retinas finally matured.

She is receiving Occupation Therapy services from Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) who sends an OT regularly to help her with her fine motor skills and her eating. She has made tremendous progress and finally had her feeding tube removed. Her ROP has cleared so she can see perfectly and at our last checkup they said her retinas have matured beautifully. She also sees the Nutritionist at NEIS who comes once a quarter to measure her growth and make sure she is on track with her eating abilities.

Trinity is now almost a year old and is rolling, sitting up on her own, babbling many conversations, and you could never tell by looking at her that she was born so premature. She is over 20 pounds and loves to eat! Trinity has overcome every obstacle she has been confronted with, so far. She continues to surprise me every day; my precious micro-preemie!!" — mom

Nevada Early Intervention Programs	SFY 13	SFY 14	SFY 15	SFY 16	SFY 17
NEIS—Southern	1512	1481	1360	1491	1645
NEIS—Northwest	777	770	874	716	646
NEIS—Northeast	150	173	177	212	192
NEIS—Carson City	0	0	0	259	307
Easter Seals Nevada—South	483	543	670	780	940
Integrated Support Solutions	323	333	440	494	432
Therapy Management Group—South	513	588	656	754	716
Foundation for Positively Kids	433	415	445	318	367
The Continuum	200	208	211	238	205
Advanced Pediatric Therapies	207	241	271	312	352
Kideology	128	210	54	299	58
Easter Seals Nevada—North	119	76	248	70	269
Therapy Management Group—North	56	146	170	225	241
STATEWIDE	4901	5184	5576	6168	6370
Percent Increase/Decrease	2%	5%	7%	10%	3%

Children Who Were Found Eligible and Enrolled in Early Intervention.

State Data Source— IDEA Part C Office

A new study provides further evidence that earlier intervention for autism increases the likelihood that a child will make significant gains in social and communication skills. — Research in Developmental Disabilities, Volume 35, Issue 12, December 2014

- **Among the toddlers who entered the therapy program before their second birthday, 90 percent made significant gains.**
- **By contrast, only 30 percent of the children who entered therapy after 30 months of age made significant gains across the year.**

March 2018

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April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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8	9	10 National Siblings Day	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
National Infant Immunization Week						
29	30	<p>http://adsd.nv.gov/Programs/Autism/ATAP/ATAP Nevada's Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) is a statewide program which provides support and monthly funding to pay for evidence-based treatments and therapies for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Call 775-687-4210 or visit their website for more information.</p>				

May 2018

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The Autism Coalition of Nevada (ACON) is comprised of representatives from various autism advocacy organizations, agencies and professionals who serve Nevadans with Autism Spectrum Disorder and related Neurodevelopmental Disorders throughout our state.

ACON believes the children, adults and their families, who are touched by these disorders, deserve an early diagnosis, deserve to have access to evidence-based treatments, and to receive accurate information regardless of age, income, or race.

Our main purpose is to ensure that services are available to all, and to keep you informed of progress in this area. The Autism Coalition of Nevada is focused in uniting all people affected by Autism, Autism Advocacy organizations, local and national political affiliates/Legislators, and the service providers in Nevada and all other states in the U.S.

For information call:

(850) 291-6778

Or visit their website at

www.aconv.org

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all children be screened for autism at both 18 and 24 months of age.

*Autism Awareness Month
 Child Abuse Prevention Month
 Month of The Young Child
 Parkinson's Awareness Month*

Advanced Pediatric Therapies (APT) offers services to children from the ages of infancy through adolescence. Our therapists are skilled in the areas of communication, feeding, sensory integration, self-help, gross motor, play/social, and fine motor skills. All of the therapists are also certified and highly skilled to treat children with a varying range of developmental, genetic and neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Regardless of the diagnosis, we work with the child and the family based on his/her areas of strength and areas of need. Our vision is for each individual to build positive social connections within his or her home and community using effective communication, self-help and gross motor skills.

**For more information
Contact
Project ASSIST**



Leslie

"Justo antes de cumplir los dos años, Leslie se enfermó con encefalitis autoinmune. Se le dificultaban las actividades que ella hacía anteriormente. Como pintar, correr, hablar..."

Después de tomar las terapias, Leslie consiguió volver a jugar con sus hermanos, volver a correr y también aprendió más cosas que ella no sabía.

Quiero agradecer a todo el equipo que le ayudó." — Mom.

"Right before turning two, Leslie was diagnosed with autoimmune encephalitis. Activities that she could do well before, were now difficult for her. Things like drawing, running, talking..."

After receiving therapies, Leslie was able to play again with her siblings, run and she also learned things that she did not know before.

I would like to thank the entire team that helped her." — Mom.

State Data Source— IDEA Part C Office

Referral Sources - Statewide SFY17	Count	Percent
Hospital	548	7.7%
Physician/Pediatrician	3397	47.8%
Parent	889	12.5%
Child Care Facility	73	1.0%
School District	11	0.2%
Public/Community Health Facilities	117	1.6%
Social Service Agencies	948	13.3%
Health Care Providers	674	9.5%
Other/Friends/Relatives	141	2.0%
Screening and Monitoring	1	0.0%
Newborn Hearing	14	0.2%
Project ASSIST	295	4.2%
TOTAL REFERRALS	7108	

<http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/EHDI/EHDI-Home/>
The purpose of the **Nevada Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)** Program is to ensure all children in Nevada are screened for hearing loss at birth and those identified with hearing loss receive timely and appropriate audiological, educational and medical intervention. Left undetected, hearing loss in infants can negatively impact speech and language acquisition, academic achievement, and social and emotional development. When diagnosed early however, these negative impacts can be diminished and even eliminated through early intervention.

Well-designed early childhood interventions have been found to generate a return to society ranging from \$1.80 to \$17.07 for each dollar spent on the program. — Rand Corporation Research Brief, 2005

April 2018

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Project ASSIST

Nevada's Central Directory for Resources & Information
1-800-522-0066 or **ProjectASSIST@dhhs.nv.gov**
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

May 2018

June 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
www.rarediseases.org National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) has a searchable database on rare disorders, foundations, support groups, agencies, and more.		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Provider Appreciation Day	12
National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week						
13 Mother's Day	14	15 International Day of Families	16	17	18	19 Armed Forces Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31	http://nvhandsandvoices.org/ Nevada Hands & Voices is a parent/professional collaborative, non-profit organization dedicated to providing information and support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing as well as the professionals who serve them.	

Nevada's **Early Childhood Mental Health** provides mental health services for children ages birth to six years and their families when children have emotional, behavioral, social or other psychological problems and associated developmental delays. Parents may refer their children for these services. For children ages 3-6 years in need of a higher level of treatment, therapeutic preschool is available.

The goal of services is to strengthen the parent-child relationships, support the family's capacity to care for their children, and to enhance the child's social and emotional functioning. The following are provided:

- Behavioral and psychological assessments,
- Individual, family, and group therapies and behavioral management,
- Psychiatric services,
- Day treatment,
- In-home crisis intervention,
- Childcare and pre-school consultation, outreach, and training,
- Clinical case management.

For more information call:

Las Vegas **(702) 486- 6120**

Reno **(775) 688-1600**

http://www.dhhs.state.nv.us/DCFS_ChildMentalHealth.htm

Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month
Better Hearing and Speech Month
Celiac Awareness month
Healthy Vision Month
Family Support Month
Foster Care Month
Mental Health Awareness Month

Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) - Southern Region provides services to all eligible children under three with developmental delays and their families living in Clark, Nye, Esmeralda and southern Lincoln counties.

Early Intervention Services are implemented by service providers who form a partnership with families to work on goals to enhance the child's participation in daily activities which occur within the family's routines in their home and community.

**For more information
Contact
Project ASSIST**



Ausar

"When Ausar was born he was diagnosed with Down syndrome. As a parent, you begin to fear the unknown challenges that lie ahead. NEIS helped us navigate that uncertainty and provided us with the tools to help Ausar reach milestones in his development. Whether it was turning to one side, completely rolling over, or sitting up, they helped reassure us that the path we were on was the right one, all the while being a light to guide us. When we look at Ausar sitting up or crawling we want to hear and applaud the work being done at NEIS." – Mom

The Genetic Alliance has created an **Advocacy ATLAS** in partnership with Parent to Parent USA and Family Voices with support from the Health Resources and Services Administration. It has a page with all kinds of resources on Advocacy & Leadership skills. Please take the time and look over what is available. You may find some information useful in a current situation.

<http://www.geneticalliance.org/advocacy-leadership-skills>

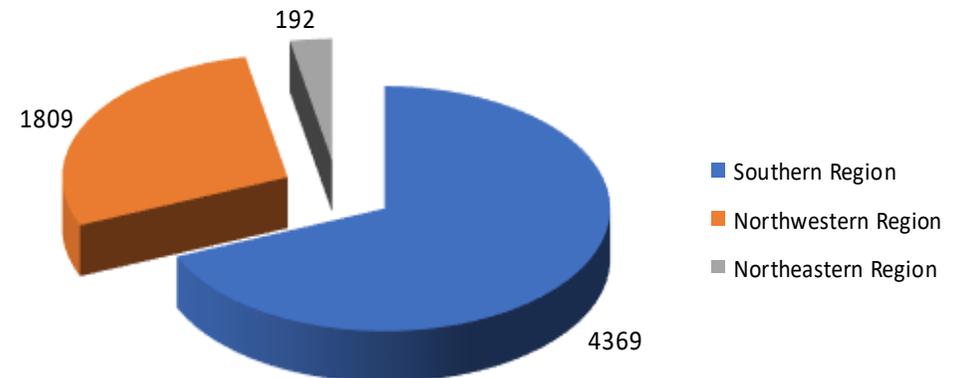


Giovanni

"Working with NEIS has been a very positive and beneficial experience. We have appreciated these services very much as they have proven to have shown a tremendous amount of results. Since the day Giovanni entered our lives he has been such a wonderful impact to us all. Giovanni is so strong and healthy. He has shown us a personality of no limitations. This child of mine is truly amazing and honestly I wouldn't change him for the world." – Mom

State Data Source— IDEA Part C Office

FY 17 Total Children Served by Region



In 2007, the National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study (NEILS) was a large national study that found **increased motor, social, and cognitive abilities for young children who received Early Intervention services compared to those who did not.**

May 2018

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Project ASSIST

Nevada's Central Directory for Resources & Information
1-800-522-0066 or **ProjectASSIST@dhhs.nv.gov**
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

June 2018

July 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/Fathers/Resources For Fathers provides information and resources especially for fathers of children with special needs, and the professionals who serve them. Also has a " Guide for Dads " available from your early intervention program or online.					1 Stand for Children Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21 First Day of Summer	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Deaf-Blind Awareness Week						

Family Resource Centers (FRC) provide case management, information, and referrals for individuals and families in need of assistance in accessing services and programs that will strengthen and support the family.

FRCs collaborate with other private and public agencies, government agencies, schools, and faith-based organizations to assist families to obtain needed services.

FRCs emphasize community based, collaborative services that are culturally competent, accessible, and flexible.

For more information or to find an FRC close to you, call:

(702) 486-3527 (Las Vegas)

or

(775) 684-4000 (Carson City)

Or visit the state web site at:
http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/Programs/FRC/Family_Resource_Center/

www.our-kids.org/
 Our-Kids is Devoted to Raising Special Kids with Special Needs, a "Family" of parents, caregivers and others who are working with children with physical and/or mental disabilities and delays.

*Children's Awareness Month
 Child Vision Awareness Month
 National Safety Month
 Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month*

Las Vegas & Reno — The Therapy Management Group (TMG) provides early childhood therapy services that support and enhance children's potential for optimal developmental outcomes. Our early intervention program provides services for children birth to three in their home or other natural environment.

Each child and family is provided with service coordination to ensure collaboration and provision of all necessary services by other health professionals and community programs, as appropriate.

**For more information
Contact
Project ASSIST**



Yared & Diego

"Somos la familia agradecida, Early Intervention Services llegó a nuestras vidas de manera oportuna, nos sentimos afortunados de contar con sus servicios. Cada visita ha sido productiva en favor al desarrollo mental y físico de nuestros hijos. Es impresionante y emocionante ver el cambio que han tenido durante estos meses de apoyo.

Sus representantes tienen el conocimiento y las habilidades necesarias para darnos soporte, técnicas y estrategias; las cuales podemos implementar con nuestros pequeños de forma sencilla, siempre generando resultados. Como madre me siento reconfortada porque cuento con el apoyo y los conocimientos de las representantes; quienes escuchan y responden las dudas que pueda tener.

Observar que mis hijos reciben las visitas con entusiasmo, me hace feliz como mamá. Obsérvalos distintos a la primera visita y notar que han incrementado sus conocimientos me permite estar tranquila sabiendo que ellos están aprovechando la ayuda, lograr las metas propuestas me entusiasma a seguir aprendiendo de ustedes.

Como miembros de esta sociedad les agradecemos infinitamente que está ciudad cuente con servicios de esta índole, pues consideramos que si ayudamos a nuestros hijos desde pequeños tendremos buenos ciudadanos en el futuro. Infinitamente gracias por todo." — Mom

<https://medlineplus.gov/>

MedlinePlus.gov was created and is maintained by the National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus is the National Institutes of Health's website providing trusted health information to the public.

Over a million people visit MedlinePlus daily and benefit from the health topic pages, a medical encyclopedia, health news, surgery videos, a medical dictionary and much more.

Includes a Spanish language version of the site, **MedlinePlus en español**

"Early intervention services came into our lives at the right time and our family is very grateful that we have been able to count on their services. Each visit has been productive in addressing both the mental and physical development of our children. It is impressive and exciting to see the changes we had during these months of support.

The Early Intervention workers have the knowledge and skills necessary to give us support, techniques and strategies; which we can implement with our children in simple ways that generating results. As a mother I feel reassured because I am counting on the support and expertise of the EI representatives; who listen and respond to any doubts that I may have.

I have noted that my children receive visits enthusiastically, makes me happy as mom. Watching them different from the first visit and noting that they have increased their knowledge allows me to worry less knowing that they are taking advantage of the help and achieving the goals set, excites me to continue learning from you.

As members of this society, I am infinitely thankful that the city has services of this nature because we believe that if we help our children early we will have good citizens in the future. Infinitely thanks for everything." — Mom

Children with delays or disabilities who received services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) showed greater than expected developmental progress. Most children exited the program functioning within age expectations. — Early Childhood Outcomes Center, 2013

June 2018

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Project ASSIST

Nevada's Central Directory for Resources & Information
1-800-522-0066 or **ProjectASSIST@dhhs.nv.gov**
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

July 2018

August 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 National Parents Day	23	24	25	26 Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA	27	28
29	30	31	http://ectacenter.org/families.asp Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center designed this page to help families understand their rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), connect with other families, and find high-quality resources related to caring for infants, toddlers and young children with disabilities.			



Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center (NDALC) is Nevada's federally mandated protection and advocacy system for the human, legal and service rights of individuals with disabilities. NDALC will advocate to ensure that children with developmental disabilities obtain appropriate and timely early intervention services and transition services. NDALC will provide direct representation at Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings in select cases that address serious systemic issues.

NDALC will provide direct representation and advocacy, as resources permit, to children with disabilities to improve access to needed early intervention services available under Part C of IDEA, and to improve timely transition services from Part C to Part B of IDEA.

For more information contact:

Main Office (Las Vegas)
1-888-349-3843 (Toll Free)

Northern Office (Reno/Sparks)
1-800-992-5715 (Toll Free)

Elko Office
1-800-992-5715 (Toll Free)

www.ndalc.org

<https://dwss.nv.gov>
 Nevada Division of
 Welfare & Supportive
 Services

Cleft & Craniofacial Awareness & Prevention Month
Family Reunion Month
Make a Difference to Children Month

Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) - Northwest Region has two offices (Carson City and Reno) from which they provide family-centered early intervention services and supports to northwest Nevada and its rural communities. NEIS provides most services in homes or community-based environments for children with developmental delays and their families. They recognize the important role of the family in a young child's development and assist parents in their natural role as teachers to help meet their child's special needs.

**For more information
Contact
Project ASSIST**



Carter, Jayla, Camdyn

<https://nevaeyc.org/>
The **Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC)** is dedicated to improving the well-being of young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

"Our family's journey started with the birth of our daughter, Jayla, now 6. Oblivious to the world around us, a roller coaster ride full of emotions, we began to adapt to our new life. After a week in the NICU, Jayla was a five week early Christmas present, and we would quickly learn about Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS). It was an evening call from the pediatrician, not long after getting home from the NICU, "Jayla has PKU (Phenylketonuria)". We had a lot of questions going through our mind, here are answers to a few: **What is PKU?** A rare, inherited metabolic disorder caused by a deficiency of the liver produced enzyme phenylalanine hydroxylase (PAH). PKU patients are at risk of severe neurological complications, including IQ loss, memory loss, concentration problems, mood disorders, and in some cases, severe mental retardation. Early identification and treatment is key to stopping the damage before it is too late. Treatment of PKU starts within weeks of birth, and is a lifelong commitment for our family.

The NEIS staff are a key partner and resource for our family. They were there to educate my wife and I, and assist in Jayla's care. They provided a dietician to help us monitor Jayla's diet, a metabolic specialist that sees Jayla 2 twice a year to ensure she is growing and developing properly, and through the age of 3 provided

a developmental specialist to ensure the PKU was not causing setbacks. More than anything they made themselves available to help our family, from moral support to insurance assistance, a friend providing advice and answering questions. We ask a lot of them, and they are always right there to respond.

Fast forward to September 5, 2015, the birth of our identical twin boys. As both my wife and I are carriers of a "bad" gene the babies would have to get both "bad" genes to have PKU (a 1 in 4 chance). Well, we are one of the rare families with 100% of our kids having PKU, and it was just as shocking the second time. A two week stay in the NICU and we were back in the NEIS office. They were there with open arms, ready to help us get started on the treatment. Like us they have continued to learn and grow, and as things have changed over the years they continue to help us adapt. They go above and beyond and we are so grateful for what they do for us and other families in our community.

All of three of our kids are very healthy and thriving, Jayla graduated from Kindergarten this year. The boys, well they're definitely boys and go non-stop. PKU is part of our family, but does not define our family. We thank the NEIS staff for all they have done and continue to do to ensure our family and kids have the tools we need. It truly is a blessing that we have the NEIS resource in our community." — Dad

"Intervention is likely to be more effective and less costly when it is provided earlier in life rather than later." — Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University (2010), *The foundations of lifelong health are built in early childhood.*

July 2018

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Project ASSIST

Nevada's Central Directory for Resources & Information
1-800-522-0066 or **ProjectASSIST@dhhs.nv.gov**
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

August 2018

September 2018

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Early Head Start offers comprehensive child development and family support services for birth to three year olds in home-based and center-based programs with or without disabilities.

The individualized home-based program provides visits by certified parent educators trained in child development who help parents understand what to expect in their child's development. Parents also receive practical tips on ways to encourage learning, manage challenging behavior, and promote strong parent-child relationships.

Center-based programs provide full-day, and full-year services, including high quality child care for infants and toddlers with or without disabilities. Early Head Start promotes infant and toddler health and development; fosters positive family relationships and supports parents as the primary decisions makers and nurturers of their children.

For more information about Early Head Start:

(702) 486-6626 (Las Vegas)

<http://www.doe.nv.gov/HeadStart/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
www.ssa.gov/disability Social Security's on-line Disability Benefits Programs information. The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of several Federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities.			1	2	3	4
5 National Friendship Day, Kid's Day, American Family Day	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Be an Angel Day	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

www.cms.gov
Federal government site for information on Medicare, Medicaid, and Child Health Insurance.

*Immunization Awareness Month
National Children's Eye Health and Safety Month*

Kideology is a local provider of Early Intervention services in the Las Vegas area.

Early Intervention services are provided to Nevada families with young children (from time of birth up to a child's 3rd birthday) who have developmental difficulties (children who seem to consistently need extra help with things other kids their age are able to do without help).

**For more information
Contact
Project ASSIST**



Ernest

Ernest came to us at just 7 months old with a diagnosis of Craniosynostosis. This is a condition where the separate bony parts of his skull fused together too early. For some kiddos this doesn't necessarily affect them much and for others it can be very debilitating. One treatment option for this condition is surgery.

Being referred to Early Intervention prior to his surgery was a benefit. By being given the opportunity to receive services before surgery, Kideology was able to help support and prepare Ernest's family for what was to come in ways the medical community is not set up to provide. Also, having important information about Ernest's development both before and after the surgery proved invaluable in developing his service plan and getting him the most relevant services to support his family and his development.

Although not necessarily all at the same time, Ernest received Service Coordination, Specialized Instruction, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Therapy, Vision Services, and Audiology from Kideology alongside all of his various medical specialists in the medical community.

Ernest has many needs, but he is growing and thriving more and more each day and is now ready to attend preschool. It has been our privilege to be a part of his challenging journey and we can't wait to see what else he is going to do! — Service Coordinator



EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY

One of the resources available to *families*, service providers, students, and teachers working with young children with disabilities or special health care needs is the resource library. This large collection of books and videos is a tremendous source of information for parents and professionals in the care and education of a child with a disability.

These library materials are available for use statewide.

For more information, please contact your service provider or coordinator.



<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/Special-Ed-Library/>

Call **Project ASSIST** at **1-800-522-0066**
or email ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

<http://www.eparent.com>

Free online — Exceptional Parent Magazine provides practical advice and emotional support to families of children and adults with disabilities and special health care needs, as well as the physicians, allied health care and educational professionals who are involved in their care and development.

"The hope is that if we can improve intervention with infants and toddlers, many of them will be able to leave their disabilities behind by age 5". — Sally J. Rogers, PhD, Professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the M.I.N.D. Institute, University of California Davis Medical Center (2012)

August 2018

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Project ASSIST

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<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

October 2018

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September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/parent-favorites ZERO TO THREE's Parent Portal provides a variety of resources for parents and caregivers of young children in areas such as: Ages and Stages, Social-Emotional Development, School Readiness and Early Learning, Play, Challenging Behavior, Sleep, and Positive Parenting Approaches. Resources designed to help you tune in to what makes your child tick, and to guide you in thinking about the best way to meet your child's individual needs.</p>						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8 FASD Awareness Day
9 Grandparents Day	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 National POW/ MIA Recognition Day	22 First Day of Fall
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<p>http://dphh.nv.gov/Programs/CYSHCN/CYSHCN-Home/ Nevada's Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) serves "...children who have or are at risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally", by working with families and across systems to develop strategies that promote quality well-being and support for those children and their families.</p>					



As the statewide Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center, **Nevada P.E.P.** provides services to parents of children with special needs, and to professionals.

Nevada P.E.P. offers the following services:

- Information, referral and technical assistance
- Individual assistance and support
- Specialized workshops on: Special Education Law, Due Process, Early Intervention Transition, and Parent/Professional Partnerships
- Newsletter and Resource Library
- Speakers

For additional information contact:

Las Vegas (702) 388-8899

Reno (775) 448-9950

Statewide (800) 216-5188

E-mail: pepinfo@nvpep.org

www.nvpep.org

www.beachcenter.org
The **Beach Center on Disability** has information available on cutting edge research and a variety of resources especially for families.

*Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Health Care Month
Respite Awareness Month
FASD Awareness Month
Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month*

Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) - Northwest Region has two offices (**Carson City** and **Reno**) from which they provide family-centered early intervention services and supports to northwest Nevada and its rural communities. NEIS provides most services in homes or community-based environments for children with developmental delays and their families. They recognize the important role of the family in a young child's development and assist parents in their natural role as teachers to help meet their child's special needs.

**For more information
Contact
Project ASSIST**



Liam

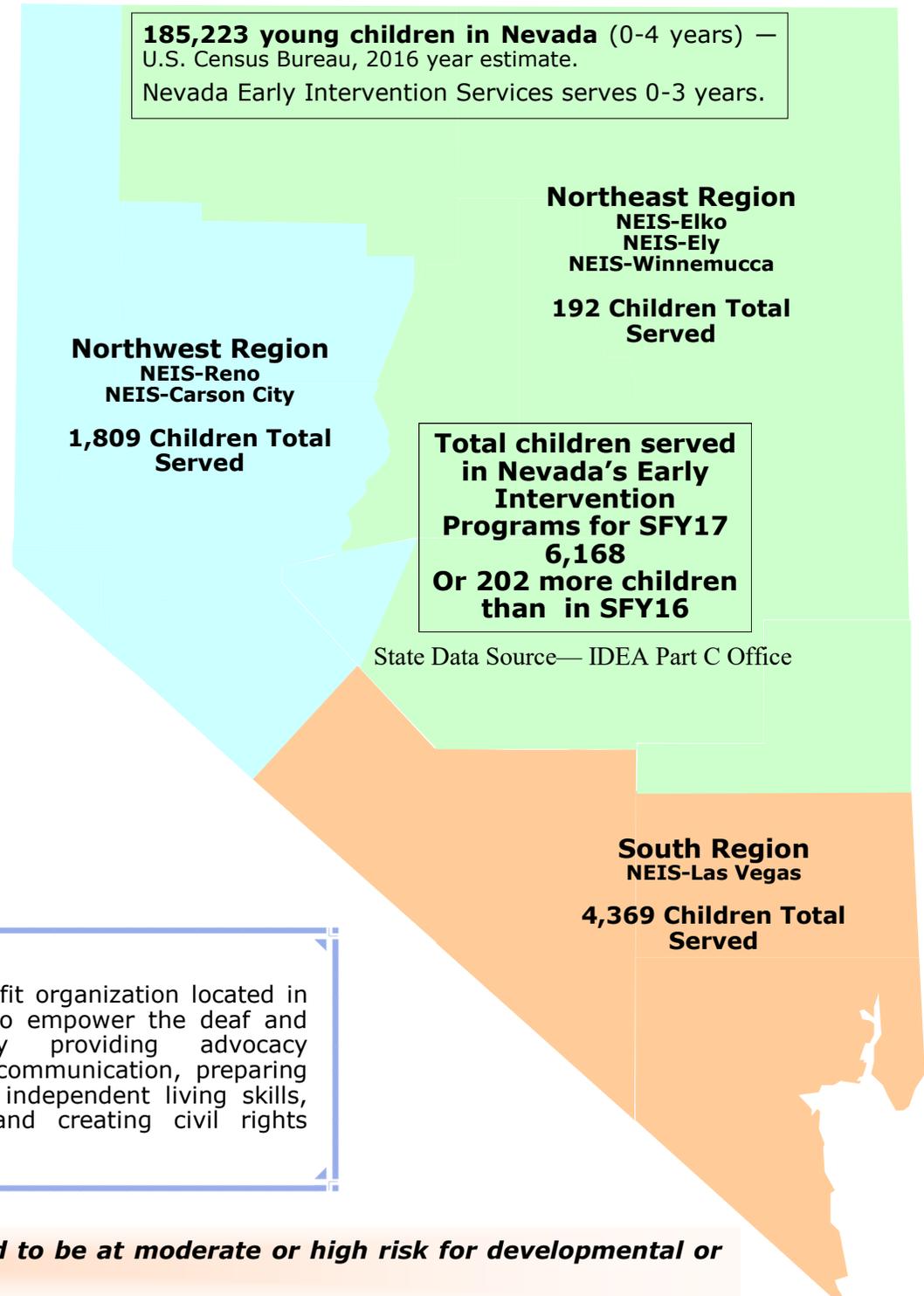
"Liam has been with NEIS Carson City since he was 5 months old. He was born with bilateral clubfoot and had multiple developmental delays. Words cannot express my gratitude for the early intervention program here in Nevada. All of the resources and amazing treatment Liam has received have given him a great start at life. I cannot imagine where we might be without this program, thank you!" – Mom

The Continuum, is also a community early intervention program that provides family-centered early intervention services and supports to northwest Nevada. It has a community based health and wellness center.

**For more information
Contact
Project ASSIST**

<http://www.dcnv.org/>
Deaf Centers of Nevada is a non-profit organization located in Las Vegas, Nevada whose mission is to empower the deaf and hard of hearing community by providing advocacy services, coordinating equal access to communication, preparing job placement and coaching, teaching independent living skills, hosting community building events and creating civil rights advocacy programs.

NEIS – Nevada Early Intervention Services By Region SFY2017



26.6% of children in Nevada age 4 months to 5 years are determined to be at moderate or high risk for developmental or behavioral problems. — National Survey of Children's Health, 2011-2012

September 2018

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Project ASSIST

Nevada's Central Directory for Resources & Information

1-800-522-0066 or ProjectASSIST@dhhs.nv.gov

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

Nevada's Month for Children with Special Needs

October 2018

November 2018

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Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) creates a bridge between science and practice by sharing research-based best practice evidence with communities.

The NCED's mission is to work cooperatively with consumers (people with disabilities, family members, etc.), agencies, and programs to assist Nevadans of all ages with disabilities to be independent and productive citizens, fully integrated into their communities. This mission is accomplished by honoring the diversity of people with disabilities, their families, and those who serve them.

The important principles of self-determination, family-centered care, and cultural competence are reflected in the ways the NCED provides service, training, and technical assistance; conducts research; and disseminates information.

The NCED projects are focused in Advocacy and Family Support, Assistive Technology and Accessibility, Education of Children with Disabilities, Employment and Transition, Positive Behavioral Supports, and Leadership Preparation and Disability Awareness.

For more information:

Office: (775)-784-4921

www.nced.info

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 National Child Health Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Anniversary of PL 99.457 establishing Part C of IDEA (Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers)	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 National Disability Mentoring Day	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Nevada Day	27 Make a Difference Day
28	29	30	31 Halloween	<p>http://www.parentcenterhub.org/resources/ The Center for Parent Information and Resources has fact sheets on disabilities, links to resources related to infants and toddlers and another for school age children. It offers tips for parents and educators. It also has links to other organizations that support individuals with intellectual disabilities.</p>		

- Audiology Awareness Month*
- Blindness Awareness Month*
- Campaign For Healthier Babies Month*
- Children with Special Health Care Needs Month*
- Dental Hygiene Awareness Month*
- Disability Awareness Month*
- Down Syndrome Awareness Month*
- Spina Bifida Awareness Month*

Las Vegas & Reno — Easter Seals Nevada (ESN) Early Intervention Services program is a community partner that provides many services to children with developmental delays, birth to three years old, and their families. The services include: service coordination, special instruction, therapy, inclusive playgroups, and other related services.

We understand that families provide the best insight into their children and we recognize the importance of a family driven Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Together with the family and therapists, the child developmental specialists/service coordinators work in the child's natural environment to provide enriching and functional activities.

**For more information
Contact
Project ASSIST**



Antonio

When Antonio came to Easter Seals, he was demonstrating global delays and Mom worried that he was not making the right progress in his development. He was not using words to communicate his needs and demonstrated difficulty with sharing toys with his sister. Antonio started receiving Speech, Occupational, Physical, and Feeding Therapy, along with Specialized Instruction on a regular basis. With the help of Easter Seals, Antonio was also able to access genetic testing and a Developmental Pediatrician who provided an Autism diagnosis. Antonio has made amazing progress: he is going up and down stairs at home, using "I want" sentences, and can identify all his letters and numbers. He is also on his way to starting school in the Fall and Mom could not be happier — Service Coordinator

"Antonio started Easter Seals when he was 11 months old. He was not able to stand, crawl or walk. With the amazing therapists that worked with him for 2 years, he has accomplished so much. He is a completely new person. I am so grateful to Easter Seals and their team for being patient with my son as he made many milestones. Antonio has definitely come a long way and is set to make many more goals and accomplishments." — Mom

The ECTA Center **Practice Guides for Families** are intended for families to increase their understanding and explain the importance of recommended practices. The Practice Guides are formatted for print as well as for viewing on mobile devices.

<http://ectacenter.org/decrp/type-pgfamily.asp>

"Families at the Center of Early Childhood Intervention"

Chances are you will be working with professionals who say they are family-centered or use family-centered practices. When this is the case, you and your family should expect to be treated in certain ways and be actively involved in decision-making and actions to achieve family-identified outcomes and goals. This practice guide includes things that are helpful to know about family-centered practices.

http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/decrp/PG_Fam_FamiliesattheCenter_family_print_2017.pdf

Costs of Early Intervention State Data Source—Aging and Disability Services Division

Funds are allocated to regional budgets based on a formula that considers maintenance of infrastructure, population distribution, and the number of eligible children served.

State Fiscal Year (Projected*)	Federal Fund	State General Fund	Third Party Revenue	Total Revenue
2018*	\$2,788,487	\$29,695,236	\$8,763,118	\$41,246,842
2017	\$3,420,728	\$30,127,302	\$767,654	\$34,315,684
2016	\$3,242,326	\$29,326,952	\$899,263	\$33,468,541
2015	\$3,299,851	\$32,463,532	\$843,208	\$36,606,591
2014	\$3,939,266	\$28,924,730	\$610,308	\$33,474,304

An extensive body of research indicates that high quality early intervention for at-risk infants, toddlers and young children and their families is a sound economic investment. Studies have found a number of long-term cost savings in terms of decreased grade repetition, reduced special education spending, enhanced productivity, lower welfare costs, increased tax revenues, and lower juvenile justice costs.

— The Long Term Economic Benefits Of High Quality Early Childhood Intervention Programs, December 2005

October 2018

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Project ASSIST

Nevada's Central Directory for Resources & Information
1-800-522-0066 or **ProjectASSIST@dhhs.nv.gov**
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

November 2018

December 2018

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http://parentingspecialneeds.org/ Parenting Special Needs Magazine is a <i>free</i> , online, bi-monthly publication that is dedicated to helping the special needs community. It covers all the ages and all of the stages and all of the different disabilities, as well as providing an invaluable resource for the parents and caregivers of those with special needs.				1	2	3
4 Daylight Saving Time ends	5	6 Election Day	7	8	9	10
11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 National Adoption Day	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23 Family Day	24
25	26	27	28	29 Anniversary of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	30	

Family TIES of Nevada is dedicated to increasing the hope, confidence and independence of people with disabilities and chronic conditions of all ages and their circle of support.



As the statewide **Family-to-Family Health Information Center**, Family TIES provides Training, Information, Education, Outreach, Peer Support and Advocacy at no cost to families of *all* children with special health care needs and the professionals who serve them. A family-run organization, and the Family Voices State Affiliate, Family TIES promotes family engagement to ensure Family-Centered Care.

Family TIES offers:

- 1-1 Assistance
- Peer Mentor Training & Matching Program
- Toll-Free Parent Support & Information/Referral Line
- Community Outreach & Education

Reno (775) 823-9500
Las Vegas (702) 740-4200
Statewide (866) 326-8437
Email: info@familytiesnv.org
www.familytiesnv.org

www.mychildwithoutlimits.org
 The **MyChildWithoutLimits.org** is a site that provides parents of children with disabilities an online resource with critical information that also connects parents to a vital social network of parents of newly diagnosed children ages 0 to 5.

Adoption Awareness Month
American Diabetes Month
Child Safety Protection Month
National Epilepsy Awareness Month
National Family Caregivers Month
Prematurity Awareness Month

Integrated Support Solutions

"Baby Steps" provides quality early childhood programs that support and enhance children's primary relationships and potential for optimal developmental outcomes. Our early intervention program provides a full array of services for children birth to three in their home or other natural environment.

Each child and family is provided with service coordination to ensure collaboration and provision of services by other health professionals and community programs, as needed. Services provided include: screening and assessment, consultation and direct individual treatment, qualified occupational therapists or physical therapists, speech/language pathologists and developmental specialists.

**For more information
Contact
Project ASSIST**



Grace

<http://www.pacer.org/stc/tikes/exploring-at.asp>
The **TIKES (TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE KIDS' EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS)** Project aims to provide direction and support to families and professionals as they explore and implement assistive technology. We know that being able to try AT helps parents and educators make wise purchasing decisions and write appropriate technology into an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP). You will find handouts that provide guidance for many frequently asked questions as families and professionals explore AT for young children.

"In 2014 our youngest daughter came to us with significant developmental delays. At 6 months of age she could not roll over, sit up, track objects with her eyes or even grasp a toy. We frequently heard things such as, 'your child may never walk,' 'we believe your child has autism,' 'your child may be profoundly disabled.' We considered such comments to be roadblocks in swift need of removal. So, worried over the development and future development of our daughter we reached out to ISS Baby Steps for a developmental evaluation. Our daughter was found to have significant delays which resulted in a recommendation for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech services. Though we knew it was going to be a challenge, we also had every confidence that our daughter could overcome many of her delays ... we just needed the right people who could share our belief.

The right people turned out to be ISS Baby Steps. That said, initially we were very intimidated by the number of appointments that had suddenly developed. We went from zero service to three overnight. At that time, my husband and I each worked full time and we were incredibly stressed trying to determine how we would manage everything. That is when our Physical Therapist explained that she could see our daughter in the daycare setting and we could communicate through a journal, text messaging and phone calls. The pressure to manage the care of our daughter and maintain our employment lifted instantaneously and we settled into a comfortable routine. The therapist would leave us comments on how the sessions went and how we could continue to work with her between their sessions. Within a few weeks we began to see small changes in our daughter's development. Suddenly she was beginning to connect with the world around her. Roadblocks were being lifted.

When our daughter's health care needs became more intense I found myself leaving the work force to stay home with her. To our delight the Physical, Occupational and Speech therapies were flexible and began seeing our daughter in our home. It was a fantastic experience to have face time with her team. I was able to observe the relationship that each professional had developed with my daughter, and note their ability to get our daughter to try new things. One of the most amazing attributes I noted was that all the team members actively communicated and collaborated on our daughter's progress and needs. It was reassuring to see everyone working together.

Slowly our daughter began to build skills that some had thought unattainable. As of this year (2017) our darling girl can walk, run, hop, talk, sing, eat and is incredibly social. However, she is still delayed and we have much work to do. That said, thanks to a team who was willing to focus on what our daughter could do and how we could get her to the next step in development. The only roadblock now, we must learn to say goodbye to the amazing team that has brought us so far as we move onto the next step." — Mom

There is a need to serve children earlier. Research has shown that at 9 months of age, only 9% of children who have delays that would make them eligible receive services; at 24 months of age only 12% of children who would be eligible receive services.—Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, (2011) 32(4), 1-8.

November 2018

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Project ASSIST

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<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

December 2018

January 2019

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The purpose of the **Nevada Dual Sensory Impairment Project** is to enhance the educational services provided to children and youth, birth through 21 years, with vision and hearing impairments.

The project provides statewide technical assistance to support parents, services providers, and other service agencies in meeting the educational needs of children who have dual sensory impairments.

Individuals who are eligible are those, birth through 21 years of age, diagnosed as having impairments in both vision and hearing or suspected of having such impairments.

For more information contact:
 Dual Sensory Impairment Project
 Department of Educational Specialties
 University of Nevada, Reno
 MS 299
 Reno, NV 89557

775-784-6471 (phone/tty)
1-877-621-5042 (toll free)
www.unr.edu/educ/ndsip/

<http://ctdinstitute.org>
 The **Center on Technology and Disability** is a resource designed to support organizations and programs that work with families of children and youth with disabilities, offering a range of information and services on the subject of assistive technologies.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	https://nv.medicalhomeportal.org/ Nevada Children's Medical Home Portal is a coalition of web-based sources of medical professional health information designed to be a "one-stop-shop" for families, physicians and other caregivers. With over 500 pages of content and 5,000 links on this website, families and physicians, and other professionals, will have access to invaluable information about evidenced based research and specific diagnoses.					1
2	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8
Inclusive Schools Week						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve	Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative — By Parents, for Parents, this project consists of a parent Facebook (www.nvparents.com/fb) support page for all parents of children with disabilities to connect, a place that shares with everyone. And a website for Early Intervention parents to give them the basic information and knowledge they need to access and utilize services effectively at www.nvparents.com .				

Nevada Resources

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Children with Disabilities ages 0-3 years

Statewide referral: **1-800-522-0066** or ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

Southern Region: Referrals (702) 486-9200
– Nevada Early Intervention Services - South

Northwest Region: Referrals (775) 688-1341
– Nevada Early Intervention Services - Reno
– Nevada Early Intervention Services - Carson City

Northeast Region: Referrals (775) 753-1214
– Nevada Early Intervention Services - Elko
– Nevada Early Intervention Services - Ely
– Nevada Early Intervention Services - Winnemucca

Children with Disabilities ages 3 and up

Nevada Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems
<http://www.doe.nv.gov/HeadStart/>

Local School District Special Education Services
(refer to your local County School District phone numbers)

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

IDEA Part C Office
(775) 687-0587 or 1-800-522-0066

Nevada Department of Education — Carson City
(775) 687-9171

Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities — UNR
(775) 784-4921

REFERRAL AND RESOURCES

Early Childhood Special Education Library —
1-800-522-0066 or ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

Project ASSIST, a Central Directory for Disability Information —
1-800-522-0066 or ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

United Way's Information & Referral line —
Dial 211 or online at: www.nevada211.org

STATEWIDE PARENT TRAINING, INFORMATION & SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

Family TIES of Nevada —
Toll Free 1-866-326-8437

Nevada PEP —
Toll Free 1-800-216-5188

ADVOCACY and LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center —
South —Toll Free 1-888-349-3843
North —Toll Free 1-800-992-5715
Elko —Toll Free 1-800-992-5715

STATE WEBSITES

— **State of Nevada**
<http://nv.gov>

— **Nevada IDEA Part C - Early Intervention**
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/PartC/>

— **Nevada Early Intervention Programs**
http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/

— **Nevada Central Directory for Early Intervention**
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

— **Aging and Disability Services Division - Early intervention**
http://adsd.nv.gov/Programs/InfantsToddlers/Infants_Toddlers/



Brian Sandoval
Governor

Richard Whitley
Director, DHHS

U.S. Families Spend 1.5 Billion Hours Yearly on Kids With Special Health Needs. Care provided by parents adds up to nearly \$18 billion in lost wages, study says. A new study by Dr. Mark Schuster, chief of general pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital, reveals the cost of care that parents who have children with special needs provide to their children on a daily basis. Published Dec. 27, 2016, in the journal Pediatrics.

