



IDEA Part C Spring-Summer Family Newsletter

May-June 2014 Volume 4 No 3

Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral...

Dear Parents/Families,

Once again we have an opportunity to celebrate both "Mother's Day" & "Father's Day".

Like any parent, when you find out your child has a disability the first thing you want is more information. You read books, do research on the internet, and ask questions.

One of the resources that we have available to **parents, professionals, educators, and staff** working with young children with disabilities and their families is the **Early Childhood Special Education Library** located in the IDEA Part C office.

This library contains hundreds of books, articles, DVD videos, and

other materials regarding children, families, disabilities, parenting and sibling relationships, working as a team, and early intervention practices.

This library is available for use statewide to families, service providers and educators.

Check out some of the books/videos on page 3. You can also find more listed in the catalog on the website. [see box to right]

If you have questions, contact me at: ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov or 1-800-522-0066 Project ASSIST

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell



Dan, Eric and Cheryl

NEVADA's EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

IDEA Part C Office

4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, NV 89706
Office: (775) 687-0587
Fax: (775) 687-0599

www.health.nv.gov/BEIS.htm

Project ASSIST
1-800-522-0066

Please enjoy the stories shared of families who have "been there and done that!" — See page 2.

Coming July 2015—NEVADA DISABILITIES CONFERENCE II

Mark your calendars! The NEVADA DISABILITIES CONFERENCE is a major, statewide event designed to meet the informational and networking needs of individuals with disabilities or special health care needs, family members, caretakers, policymakers, advocates, administrators, educators, students, staff and service providers. The last conference garnered 394 attendees who enjoyed two and a half days of an outstanding program with 48 sessions, several national Keynote presenters, and 38 vendors/resource tables.

Also the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES selected Reno as their annual conference host city for 2015, and will combine with the NEVADA DISABILITIES CONFERENCE, possibly bringing 200 professionals and leading experts in the field of disability to our state and the conference, offering more resources, and bringing national attention to Nevada.

This event provides a truly unique environment where people can attend educational breakout sessions relevant to their specific needs, interact with policymakers, network with others and learn about the wide range of services available in Nevada. . . **Plan on it!!!**

Been there, done that!



Martha, her son, daughter, and grand-baby.

"My connection with Early Intervention (EI) began when my son Rafael was 2 years old. Rafael was diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome by the developmental pediatrician at Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS). When Rafael graduated from NEIS at the age of three and went on to the school district, I had the opportunity to remain involved with EI working as a Family Specialist at NEIS. Rafael is currently 10 years old, and my involvement with EI has not ended. Currently I am the office manager for Therapy Management Group (TMG), one of the EI community providers. I am also a member of the ICC Family Support Resource Subcommittee.

Remaining involved with EI has advanced my knowledge in community resources which has benefited me personally. Remaining part of EI also allows me to share my knowledge and resources with families for their special needs child. Being such an active and integral part of the EI community, I have been fortunate enough to gain experience in advocacy and communication. I am able to connect with other parents, obtain their support, and knowledge. I have daily interaction with families who are facing the same difficulties as I once did. This has helped me realize that I am not alone in this journey.

Involvement in EI as a Parent Mentor allows me to share the knowledge gained from my experience as a parent receiving EI services, and give back by supporting new families through the process. Since becoming involved with the ICC Family Support Resource Subcommittee I have been provided with a great opportunity to advocate for the special needs population and those in need of EI services." ~ Martha Estrada

The Part C Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (All items are subject to editing and review.)

Family TIES directs Nevada's Family-to-Family Healthcare Information and Education Center and provides statewide support to families of children and youth with special health care needs by:

- Assisting families as they navigate public and private systems, including health systems and insurance plans,
- Assisting families in accessing services and resources for their children and in partnering with providers and caregivers,
- Listening to families as they describe their encounters with systems and helping guide them to possible solutions,
- Working with families, health care providers, public and private agencies, and advocacy or support groups to promote family-centered care and medical homes for children with special health care needs,
- Promoting discussion and linkages among families, providers, managed care programs, and government to better serve the health care and related needs of children and families in Nevada.

For more information call **1-866-326-8437** or visit their web site at: <http://www.familytiesnv.org/>

Building a National Agenda for Supporting Families with an Individual with Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities

The goal of *Building a National Agenda for Supporting Families with an Individual with Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities* is to advance policy and strategies at the federal and state level for building an infrastructure for supporting families of people with developmental disabilities, with all of their diversity and complexity. Go to their website at: www.familysupportagenda.org/FSNA/

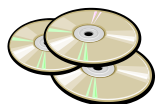
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY—

There are a great many things to learn... check them out!!!

Library catalogue for other titles — http://health.nv.gov/BEIS_SpecialEdLibrary.htm

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.

Videos in our Library:



"A Child with Special Needs" – this DVD features families with special needs children who share their personal stories. Doctors, legal advisors, educators, and special needs workers also offer guidance and encouragement to help parents cope and become the best possible advocate for their child.

Books in our Library:

"Building a Joyful Life with your Child who has Special Needs" – This book considers the challenges of caring for children with physical, developmental and mental health disorders and proposes methods such as learning to see events through your child's own eyes, celebrating their strengths and achievements and recognizing how others can help your child. Chapters deal with key topics such as coping with a diagnosis, discussing support needs, and explaining a child's differences to their peers. The authors stress the importance of parents building support systems for themselves and their children.



"Uncommon Fathers: Reflections on Raising a Child With a Disability" – a moving collection of 19 essays by fathers with children of various ages and various special needs. This book gives voice to fathers who are often overlooked in the literature about families of children with special needs.

There is also a **"Guide for Dads"** available on the NEIS web site at:

<http://health.nv.gov/PDFs/BEIS/Publications/AGUIDEforNVDADS.pdf>

These library materials are available for use statewide. For more information, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, please contact me at **Project ASSIST** toll free **1-800-522-0066** or ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov

FREE.... Enrollment in the national **EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE (EIFA)** to *all families* who have a child in early intervention. . . **Keep informed! Obtain Answers! Impact Policies!**

The Early Intervention Family Alliance is a national leadership organization dedicated to improving outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, open to all.

Members receive email alerts and updates on key early intervention topics and can join the **EIFA list serve** to participate in active discussions and share experiences. Web: www.eifamilyalliance.org

Resources from NICHCY

Early intervention for children with complex communication needs. This website provides guidelines for early intervention to maximize the language and communication development of young children with autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, and multiple disabilities.

<http://nichcy.org/early-intervention-for-children-with-complex-communication-needs>

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Nevada PEP, as the statewide Parent Training and Information Center, offers classes such as "**FAMILIES ARE IMPORTANT**" for families to better understand Early Intervention, their Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and the Transition process from Early Intervention into the community or school districts. In "**SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE PARENT ADVOCACY**" participants learn the importance of advocacy and effective strategies to help children with disabilities. Communication techniques will help you feel confident advocating for children. For more information on these and other classes, contact PEP statewide at **1-800-216-5188** or visit their website at: www.nvpep.org/

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:](#)
- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Ely:](#)
- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Winnemucca:](#)

NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

- ⇒ [Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:](#)
- ⇒ [Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:](#)
- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:](#)

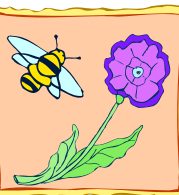
- **Down Syndrome Network "Family Support Group"** - Usually every 1st Tuesday of the month [except for Summer months activities] from 5:45 pm at NEIS-Enterprise. Call 775-682-9071 or e-mail dsnninfo@gmail.com to R.S.V.P.
- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS-Enterprise, by RSVP only! Please call 775-823-9500 to RSVP.
- **RAVE** will also have **Respite Applications** available every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS-Enterprise.
- **Friends of Special Children** is looking for new board members to join their non-profit organization that supports families in Early Intervention. This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested in being a part of this great cause, contact Lori Schoen at 688-0379.
- **Scholarship Applications for the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum** are available by calling Lori Schoen, NEIS Supervisor, at 775-688-0379 or email: lschoen@health.nv.gov
- **Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, Enterprise Rd., May 22nd and the 4th Thursday of every other month at 6:00 pm.

- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:](#)
- ⇒ [The Continuum—Reno:](#)
- ⇒ [Therapy Management Group—Reno:](#)

SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

- ⇒ [Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:](#)
- The Early Intervention Program at Easter Seals Nevada is hosting **playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! For more information call or email Ella Philander, 702.428-4335 or ella.philander@eastersealsnevada.org
- ⇒ [ISS "BABY STEPS"—Las Vegas:](#)
- ⇒ [Kideology—Las Vegas:](#)
- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:](#)
- ⇒ [Positively Kids—Las Vegas:](#)
- Does your child need Health Insurance? Call 1-855-77PKHIP to see if they qualify for Medicaid and let our qualified staff walk you through the process.
- Like us on **Facebook!** <https://www.facebook.com/positivelykids>
- ⇒ [Therapy Management Group—Las Vegas:](#)
- **Milagros Escondidos** family support meetings the last Thursday of each month, 6pm-8pm, at 6600 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 111
- Follow us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/pages/Therapy-Management-Group/125111757516323 for resources, strategies, activities, and support.



www.health.nv.gov/BEIS.htm

Nevada's Early Intervention website is filled with information and resources, including a "Links" page of all kinds of useful websites with information, and a Frequently Asked Questions page.

To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, please send your e-mail address to Dan Dinnell at ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov

