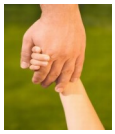

# *Nevada Early Intervention **Summer – Fall** Family Newsletter*

*September – October 2018 Volume 8 No 5*

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

Dear Parents/Families,

***An invitation to attend...***

**NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION**
## ***INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL* (ICC)**

Nevada's **ICC** was set up to advise and assist Nevada in the development and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. It is especially important to hear from families and we encourage you to participate. Selected dates for the next few meetings:

**Thursday—October 18, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.** (video conference)

Where: usually via video conference in Carson, Elko, Las Vegas and Reno.

Always check the meeting agendas for changes—posted at:

**http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Meetings/**

The ICC bylaws and membership can be viewed at

**http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Home/**

under **"Who is on the ICC?"**, click on **Current Membership**.

For information: **ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov** or 1-800-522-0066

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell

Dan, Eric, and Cheryl

NEVADA's EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES
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Early Intervention Program and Family **Highlights** — page 2

**New Library Books!** — page 3

**OPPORTUNITY!!!** Seeking a new ICC Parent Representative! — last page

*"It so important for you as a parent to be involved with your State's Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC). When you attend an ICC meeting you get to see people working hard to be sure to provide you and your family with quality supports and services for your little one who has challenges. If you want to understand your services and how they work please come to an ICC meeting. There are parents and other reps who are waiting to hear from you." ~ Christine, Nevada ICC Parent Representative*

**Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative**: By Parents, for Parents—It's all the insider information about Nevada's Early Intervention Services System in one common place. This project consists of a parent **Facebook** (**www.nvparents.com/fb**) support page for families with children in Early Intervention Services, information to give parents the basic knowledge they need to access and utilize services effectively, and a website that shares with everyone. **Early Intervention Parents Nevada** is a place for all parents of children with disabilities to connect. Please post your personal stories, questions about your child's development and/or disability, questions about Early Intervention programs, great parenting articles you've come across, community resources and events at:

**www.nvparents.com**


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# Early Intervention Program Highlight

**https://positivelykids.org/early-intervention/**

**Positively Kids** is a Las Vegas based pediatric non-profit organization that has provided quality healthcare to medically fragile and/or developmentally delayed children since 1999. Through the dedication of our bi-lingual professionals and compassionate staff, Positively Kids services more than 12,000 children each year through our care coordination programs, such as High-Risk Newborn Clinic, Early Intervention, Medical Daycare, Skilled Respite, Home Health, Health Coach, and Dental.

Early Intervention is a home-based early childhood intervention program for children birth to three years of age who have a developmental delay or disability. If your child qualifies for services, we send a highly skilled team of therapists into your home to teach you strategies and empower you to be an advocate for your child. The services are provided at no cost to you.

Medical and educational studies, along with the personal experiences of families show that a family-centered program of support and services can make a difference in a child's future. 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*

*"This is Theo, or our Theosaures-Rex. He loves dinosaurs and just turned ONE!*

*His super power is Mosaic Down Syndrome. Which means he has less cells affected with the extra chromosomes (T21).*

*He is everything his Dad and I ever imagined. He is the light of our eyes. We are young parents and didn't expect it but we wouldn't change anything! Nothing is different and he will accomplish anything he puts his mind to!*

*Positively Kids have been so amazing to us, helping him reach his milestones! He is doing great and he will be great! We love you baby!"*
*~ Papi & Mommy*

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**ZERO TO THREE Parent Portal – A Collection of Resources for Parents of Young Children**
ZERO TO THREE has a Parent Portal that 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. **http://www.zerotothree.org/parenting-resources/**


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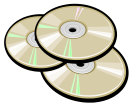
— For Families & Professionals —

## *Early Childhood Special Education Library*

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



With hundreds of books and DVDs available for use statewide, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, send an email to **ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov**

# *NEW ARRIVALS!!!*

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (Revised Edition): The Complete Guide to Understanding Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, and Other ASDs** — Explains all aspects of the condition, and is written for parents, educators, caregivers, and others looking for accurate information and expert insight. Newly updated to reflect the latest research, treatment methods, and DSM-V criteria. This book covers: The causes of autism spectrum disorders; Getting an accurate diagnosis; Treatments based on behavioral, psychological, and biomedical interventions; Coping strategies for families.

**Parents of Children with Disabilities**: **A Survival Guide for Fathers and Mothers** — This book is an easy to read book for parents who are entering into the world of having a child with a disability or for those who are struggling with being a parent of one. This book does a wonderful job of describing the challenges that parents go through as parents of a special needs child and our different roles within the family.

**Supportive Parenting: Becoming an Advocate for Your Child with Special Needs** — Learn to take an active role in advocating for your child and helping to meet their needs. She explains for new parents how to look out for early signs that things aren't quite right, from procuring evaluations, to understanding what the diagnoses mean, to selecting therapies and therapists, to following through on therapies at home and targeting needs to be addressed.

**The Boy in the Moon - A Father's Journey to Understand His Extraordinary Son** — Ian Brown's son Walker, is one of only about 300 people worldwide diagnosed with cardiofaciocutaneous (CFC) syndrome—an extremely rare genetic mutation that results in unusual facial appearance, the inability to speak, and a compulsion to hit himself constantly. At age thirteen, he is mentally and developmentally between one and three years old and will need constant care for the rest of his life. Brown travels the globe, meeting with genetic scientists and neurologists as well as parents, to solve the questions Walker's doctors can't answer. In his journey, he offers an insightful critique of society's assumptions about the disabled. As Brown gradually lets go of his self-blame and hope for a cure, he learns to accept the Walker he loves, just as he is.

**Grandparenting a Child With Special Needs** — When a new baby is born into a family, grandparents are excited about having a baby to enjoy and love. If the child is born with a disability, it can be difficult to know how to react and how best to help the child and the family as a whole. This book provides guidance on how to grandparent a child with special needs and give every grandchild the love and care they deserve and parents the added support they need.

**How to Raise a Rocket Scientist for Fun and Profit** — Written in the third person, this touching memoir, based on a true story, unfolds primarily through the eyes of the father who, in the end, has to admit that he did not so much raise his daughter... as she raised him. It begins on a cold winter day, in a little town in the mountains, a baby girl is born dead. Revived, brought back to life, her mother rescued from almost the same fate, the little baby not only survives but begins to thrive, in her own way, and at her own pace. Afflicted with cerebral palsy, slowly she learns the basics of how to live, to walk, to talk, to find ways to adapt to a world made for normal people, ordinary people.

**Living a Happy Life with a Special-Needs Child: A Parent's Perspective** — An invaluable resource for parents and caregivers of special-needs children, as well as anyone who wants to better understand them, it delivers practical advice for how to deal with a variety of situations one is likely to encounter when raising a special-needs child. Topics include surviving the neonatal intensive care unit, taking care of yourself and your significant other, organizing doctor's appointments, managing hospital stays, skillfully navigating insurance, and finding childcare.

**Catalog at: http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/Special-Ed-Library/**

**Kids' Waivers**

Kids' Waivers is a national site for Medicaid waivers, Katie Beckett or TEFRA programs, and other programs for children with disabilities or medical needs.

**http://www.kidswaivers.org/nv/**



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**EI program information > http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/**

## NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

*** contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information**

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko*:**

## NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

*** contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information**

⇒ ***Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno*:**

- **Community Play groups** every 2nd & 4th Friday, of each month. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. For more information: 775-825-4744.

⇒ ***Easterseals Nevada—Reno*:**

- **Please join us at our next *Discover Your Way***—The Discover Your Way program is specifically designed to meet the needs of children on the Autism Spectrum and with sensory and/or perception disorders. Admission is free for members, and remains the same for each Discover Your Way event at $10 per child (1-17) or senior (65+), and $12 per adult (18+).

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City*:**

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno*:**

- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS, by RSVP only! Call to RSVP: 775-823-9500
- **Friends of Special Children** - This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested, contact Gretchen Canepa at 688-0303 or GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov.
- **NEVADA Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, usually the 3rd Thursday of every other month on the "odd" months, at 6:00 pm. Contact: 775-351-1959, or email: info@nvhandsandvoices.org

⇒ ***Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Reno*:**

- **Inclusive Developmental Play Group** at Early Head Start. Call Melissa McGovern at: 775-525-4072.

⇒ ***The Continuum—Reno*:**

- **Carousel Kids** is an inclusive childcare program. We also offer an intergenerational experience with elders from our onsite adult day program. For more information or to schedule a tour, phone: 775-829-4700.
- **Literacy Land**—FREE! Gently used books for children birth-5 years. Or donate to our lending library. Meet, mingle, borrow, share, read, enjoy with your friends at the Continuum! Also, look for our collection bins around town! For further information, please call the Continuum's Early Intervention department at (775) 221-8054 or email at info@continuumreno.com . Visit us at continuumreno.com

## SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

*** contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information**

⇒ ***Easterseals Nevada—Las Vegas*:**

- **Playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! Call Jodie Sipes at: 702-860-4914

⇒ ***Kideology—Las Vegas*:**

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas*:**

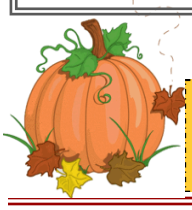
- **Yoga & Literacy Group** at Family to Family Connection, Cambridge Community Center: This biweekly class combines exercise and early literacy for young children. Interested families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Explore & Learn Developmental Playgroups in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson—**Weekly, inclusive community playgroups include engaging, age-appropriate peer activities for families of infants and toddlers with diverse abilities to support child development. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Sign Language class at University Medical Center (UMC)—**NEIS staff provide this bi-weekly parent education class on communication skills using sign language to promote understanding between toddlers and their families. All members of the family are welcome to attend. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.

⇒ ***Positively Kids—Las Vegas*:**

⇒ ***Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Las Vegas*:**

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, starts at 6:30pm, at East Las Vegas Community Center located at 250 N. Eastern Ave.
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups**. Thursdays at Family to Family & UNLV Preschool. Contact Robbi Lucero at: 702-335-1666 or rlucero@tmgnv.com

The Early Intervention 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. (Subject to review & editing.)



**Nevada's Central Directory** website, filled with information and resources, includes a "Links" page with all kinds of useful local, state, and national websites.

**http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST**

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# *Parents, want to make a difference in Nevada's early intervention system?!*

**We are looking for a parent to represent Southern Nevada** on the Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC). We are looking for a parent who has experience with our State's early intervention services.

**What is the ICC?**

The purpose of the ICC is to advise and assist Nevada and the Early Intervention system in developing, implementing, and promoting a program of family-centered early intervention services for all eligible infants, toddlers and their families. The Governor appoints all members of the ICC for a three year term.

**Why is it important for parents like me to serve?**

You know what it feels like to have a child with a disability. You know what it feels like to have early intervention professionals in your home, working with you and your child. You probably have opinions about what worked well and what could have worked better. Your perspective is very important. As the ICC works with the State to make program changes, family input is an integral part of the process.

**What would I be asked to do?**

☐ Attend the 4 general meetings of the Interagency Coordinating Council, each year.
☐ Respond to email communications regarding the ICC
☐ Contribute information and your unique perspective regarding issues that impact Nevada early intervention programs

**Would I be reimbursed for attending?**

All parent members may receive a child care stipend for attending each of the 4 ICC meetings, as well as compensation and/or reimbursement of expenses for other meetings.

**Am I eligible to apply?**

You must be a parent/guardian of a child who has received early intervention services, now or in the recent past, with preference to parents of children currently in Early Intervention services.

If you are interested, contact your service coordinator or Nevada's IDEA Part C office.

Email **ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov** or call **1-800-522-0066**

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