

Nevada Early Intervention Winter Family Newsletter

January-February 2016 Volume 6 No 1

Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral... Happy New Year!

Dear Parents/Families

Nevada's Early Intervention **INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (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. Families and community partners are invited to all ICC meetings. Please consider attending.

MEETING NOTICE NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Date and Time of Meeting: **Thursday, January 21, at 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting will be held via video conference in Elko, Las Vegas and Reno.

Please check for locations on the meeting agenda posted at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Meetings/>

It is especially important to hear from families and I encourage you to participate. If you would like more information about attending meetings or how to submit public comments to the Council, please contact me at: ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov or ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell

*Central Directory of Resources: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>



Cheryl, Eric, and Dan

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

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Carson City, NV 89706
Office: (775) 687-0587
Fax: (775) 687-0599

**Project ASSIST
1-800-522-0066**

ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

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

Life Stages Tool Guide – The **Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD)** has created the **Life Stages Guide**; a tool to help individuals with disabilities and their families plan for, and make informed choices to live the most self-determined life they can at any age. It represents the viewpoints of individuals with disabilities, parents and family members on what they found helpful, wish for their future, or wished they had thought about during the different ages and stages in life. It also includes information on self-determination, a list of various resources and services. We hope you will find this guide informational and useful for you, your family members and/or consumers. The guide is available in three forms: on the website (www.nevadaddcouncil.org) under Resources, (in standard and accessible format) and through the NGCDD as an actual handbook.
<http://www.nevadaddcouncil.org/resources/>

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, parenting questions, community resources and events, etc. at www.nvparents.com.

Been there, done that!



We became involved with Early Intervention because we have five kiddos on the Autism spectrum. Of course, by the fifth child we basically knew what to expect. And they are all different including our twins.

The hardest part of being a parent of children with extra abilities (disabilities), is the other people on our planet. While most parents do understand that having five children is an adventure in itself, yet the constant explaining why your child has WILD BEHAVIORS is very hard for some people to grasp.

However, when your child surpasses the expectations that were set for them you are so overwhelmed emotionally. You feel like you want to smile, laugh and cry all at the same time. It is very satisfying!

As our children were starting to age out of Early Intervention I asked our DS at Therapy Management Group (TMG) how we could give back to those that were so generous with their time and abilities. Also how could we be of help to others seeking help for their kiddos. They introduced me to the Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC). Being a member of the ICC has opened my eyes to a whole new experience as an advocate and since that time I have become a Co-chair on the Council. I feel very confident as a parent.

On the ICC we talk about kiddos with disabilities. We also discuss ways to help parents have a better idea how to receive early interventions. As a parent we are the voice for our children. I would highly recommend parents to get involved in the ICC and/or its subcommittees. It has been a pleasure to serve on this Council with its outstanding staff." - Lisa Cridland, ICC Parent Representative

Sesame Street and Autism: See Amazing in All Children

The Sesame Street workshop has launched [Sesame Street and Autism: See Amazing in All Children](#), featuring a new character with autism, resources for families of children with autism, and [The AMAZING Song](#), which celebrates young children with diverse abilities. The nationwide initiative was developed with input from parents, people who serve the autism community, and people with autism. It offers families ways to overcome common challenges and simplify everyday activities, while also fostering an affirming narrative around autism for all families and kids. <http://autism.sesamestreet.org/>

If you are interested in volunteer activities, where you can receive knowledge, share information, gain skills and experience in advocating for others and your family, the NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) has a permanent **FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCE SUBCOMMITTEE** (FSRS) that can always use parents and others who have a passion for supporting early intervention.

For more information, email ProjectAssist@dhs.nv.gov or call 1-800-522-0066

Parent Portal – New Collection of Resources for Parents of Young Children

ZERO TO THREE has launched 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 and guide you in thinking about the best way to meet your child's individual needs. <http://www.zerotothree.org/parenting-resources/>

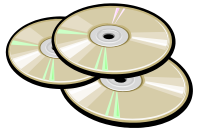
For Families & Professionals

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION *LIBRARY*—

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



Great DVDs!!!



Parenting Children with Special Medical Needs, (2 DVDs). Discover highly effective yet easy-to-learn parenting techniques to help you raise happy, healthier children. You'll meet internationally-known parenting experts Foster W. Cline, M.D. and Charles Fay, Ph.D. as well as other professionals, parents, and children who share their experiences and insights about living with medical issues and chronic illness. Whether your child has allergies, asthma, a bleeding disorder, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, epilepsy, cancer, an injury, or any other health issue, you'll find essential parenting skills to help children of all ages cope well with challenges, adhere to medical requirements, and live a hope-filled life.

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, contact **Project ASSIST** toll free at **1-800-522-0066** or send an email to ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov.

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

Social Security benefits for children with disabilities - A child with a disability who is younger than 18 years of age may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Have a look at the **SSA's Child Disability Starter Kit**, which includes a fact sheet on the application process, a child disability interview preparation checklist and a Medical and School Worksheet. Available in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#) at http://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits_child_eng.htm

Respite – *According to a recent report from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, 14 to 19 percent of U.S. children have a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition (Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), 2011). An estimated 16.8 million unpaid caregivers provide care to a child with special needs under the age of 18 in the U.S. and among family caregivers of children under 18, 81% do not use respite (National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) and AARP, 2009). Without this home-care, many of these cared for loved ones would require permanent placement in institutions or health care facilities. The value of the services family caregivers [for all ages] provide for "free" is estimated to be over \$450 billion a year. That is more than twice as much as is spent on homecare and nursing home services combined, estimated at \$158 billion. (AARP Public Policy Institute Report, 2011)*

The mission of the **Nevada Lifespan Respite Program** is to expand quality respite services throughout the age spectrum, statewide. The goal is to promote and assist in the development of respite services so caregivers can continue to provide long-term care of their loved one.

For more information on Respite Care in Nevada: **Nevada Lifespan Respite Program**

Aging & Disability Services Division
3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132 , Carson City, NV 89706
Phone: 775-687-4210

<http://www.nevadaadrc.com/services-and-programs/lifespan-respite>

FREE.... Participation in the national **EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE (EIFA)** is open to *all interested* in supporting 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.

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

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:

- The **Family Support Group** is for **ALL** of those families with children with any type of special needs. Join us the first Thursday of each month from 5:45 to 7:30pm [except for Summer months activities or other special events] at Nevada's Early Intervention Services Office in Elko. To RSVP contact Janina Easley at jfal84@yahoo.com or call: 775-828-5153.

NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:

- **Community Play groups** at Pah Rah Park every 2nd & 4th Friday, each month at 10:30am. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. Families should call for more information: 775-825-4744.

⇒ Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:

⇒ Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:

- **Children's Holiday Party** on December 16th from 4-6pm at NEIS-Reno. Santa will be there and lots of fun activities, milk, cookies and finger foods to enjoy!
- **Family Support Group**, sponsored by Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada & NEIS - The 1st Thursday each month [except for Summer months activities or other special events] 5:45 pm, at NEIS. Call: 775-828-5159 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, by RSVP only! Please call: 775-823-9500 to RSVP.
- **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, please 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.
- **Grandparents raising grandchildren with special needs — Support Group**, 3700 Grant Dr., Reno. First Thursday monthly, with free childcare on site. For more information call Amanda Aitchison at: 775-737-8756.

SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:

- **Playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! Call Jessica Hartley at: 702-329-0345

⇒ ISS Baby Steps—Las Vegas:

- **Inspired Discoveries Playgroup** welcomes children 0-3 years old in an inclusive setting. Please join in our fun adventure! Call: 702-586-3100

⇒ Kideology—Las Vegas:

⇒ Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:

- **Parent meeting** for families of children (any age) with Prader Willi Syndrome, at NEIS. Contact Erica Magana (Bilingual) at 702-486-9265 or emagana@adsd.nv.gov, or Shirley Farkas at: 702-486-9263 or sfarkas@adsd.nv.gov

⇒ Positively Kids—Las Vegas:

⇒ Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Las Vegas:

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, 6-8pm, at 6600 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 111
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups**. Contact Sarah Petrocelli at: 702-340-5521 or spetrocelli@tmgnv.com
- **Mom's Planning Committee**—Meetings will be at TMG on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Email Martha at mestrada@tmgnv.com or call: 702-595-5437 X 205.

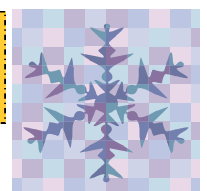
For EI program contact information: http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/

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.)



Nevada's Central Directory website, filled with information and resources, includes a "Links" page with all kinds of useful websites and a Frequently Asked Questions page.
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>

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 ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov



*This is important for parents in Eastern Nevada! In 2016, the most AWESOME training, **NEVADA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING**, is coming to **ELKO!!! PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING** is a very intensive and innovative national model of leadership training, 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. *This **FREE** training starts early next year. Help get the word out!*

NEVADA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

The Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities is seeking applications from motivated, interested individuals throughout Eastern Nevada, who have developmental disabilities, or are parents of children with developmental disabilities, to become candidates for Nevada Partners in Policymaking, Class of 2016 in Elko, Nevada.

Participants are required to:

- Commit to attend all four Saturday/Sunday sessions, one weekend every other month.
- Complete homework assignments between sessions.
- Complete e-learning course. (technical assistance will be provided if needed).
- Commit to a project to be completed after graduation.

Participants will receive:

- **Valuable working knowledge on disability issues** and information on resources available in their community.
- **Advocacy skills.**
- A monthly stipend to help with logistical costs associated with attending class sessions.
- New relationships with people who have the same interests as you.



PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING is 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 program.

Classes will be held at **Great Basin College** in Elko, Nevada

Dates are: **February 27 & 28, April 30 & May 1, June 11 & 12, August 27 & 28**

Partners in Policymaking application: <http://nced.info/pip/application/>

Application deadline is January 31st, 2016

More information is available at: <http://nced.info/pip/>
or contact **Diana Rovetti:** rovetti@unr.edu or 775-682-9060

NEVADA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING is a
Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities sponsored project
administered by the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities.