



Nevada Early Intervention Spring-Summer Family Newsletter

May - June 2018 Volume 8 No 3

Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral... Happy Mothers & Fathers Day



Dan, Eric, and Cheryl

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 for **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, DVDs, and other materials

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

As a part of Nevada's Central Directory—Project Assist, this library is available for use statewide to families, service providers and educators.

Check out some of the books and videos on page 3. You can also find more listed in the catalog on the website.

If you have questions, contact us: ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or 1-800-522-0066

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

IDEA Part C Office

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Project ASSIST

1-800-522-0066

ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, contact us!

"Been there and done that!" A Dad's Perspective
— See page 2

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. Tentative dates for the next few meetings:

Thursday—April 19, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (Annual Face-to-Face only, in Las Vegas)

Thursday—July 19, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (video conference)

Thursday—October 17, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (video conference)

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

Always check the meeting agendas for changes—posted at:

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

For more information, contact ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066.

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.

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.)

Been there, done that!



As a father who has had a disability all my life, it was my wish that I did not have children born with the same disability that I have. I know the struggles and tribulations that I grew up with, and continue to go through on a daily basis. I knew I wouldn't have the heart to see one of my children go through it. I have 3 children, all boys, the third, Wesley Patrick, was born with severe to profound hearing loss. When he failed his hearing screening, I was dismayed and brokenhearted because my two older boys were both fine and I had always thought that my disability was a result of a birth defect, not hereditary (no one on my mom's side or father's side has any disability), and we still don't know if it's genetic.

I started to see how my mom, dad, and my grandfather, and other members of my family were all scared about the unknown for me back in 1979. They didn't know what to expect nor what my future held for me.

Flash forward 30+ years and a few months before my grandfather died, he told me, while holding back tears and a crack in his voice (this was a WWII vet and I never once saw him show emotion), how he felt when I came home with hearing aids. He had no idea how to talk to me because I couldn't talk back to him nor how to relate to me. He wondered if I would ever be able to go to regular school, would I have friends, meet a girl, play sports, all the things that you want your child to grow up to be. He looked at me with a tear in his eyes, saying he never thought I would graduate with a Master's Degree and be a doggone good rugby player, with friends, and leading a normal life. He was the proudest of me out of all of his grandkids. I tell you this part because now I am my grandfather, in a sense that I understand how he must have felt with his trepidation and fear for me when I was a toddler. Yet with my lifelong experience, I can be a role model for my child and know that despite his special needs, I will be there for him.

My wife, Andrea, on the other hand was just like my mother was when she found out about me. My wife can now understand just how hard it can be to live with a person who is hard of hearing - not necessarily me (although I'm sure I'm not easy to live with, haha!) but with a baby that doesn't hear anything. She sang to our son for a few days after we came home and stopped after a few verses and broke down crying. She just realized that Wes couldn't hear her singing. She loved singing to the two other boys (Jack and Nolan) and she wouldn't be able to do that at night before putting Wes to bed. I am amazed at how strong my wife has become over the past few months and I am definitely blessed because of her.

Andrea has been so great in fighting the challenges that keep coming on a daily basis. Since I am not so great over the phone, she has been calling audiologists, ENT doctors, pediatric doctors, our health care provider, interventionists, and services for deaf and hard of hearing babies, and it has been nothing short of a nightmare. One doctor called us on a referral for a hernia!! It has been extremely frustrating to deal with the amount of errors that should not be occurring. We've even had a receptionist blame my wife over the phone for their inability to send the correct referral! Wes has basically been without his hearing aids the past month because of ineffectiveness with the audiologist and the company that make the ear molds. So, there has been quite a few frustrating moments as you can see.

Through it all though, my wife continues to do whatever it takes to ensure Wes is getting his needs met, through early intervention services, early head start, and researching about his receiving cochlear implants. Wes' two older brothers have been incredibly protective of him and are completely enamored with him. With the struggles that should not be existing, we are still unsure on staying in Las Vegas because of the lack of pediatric services and health care that Wes needs, which will prevent him from progressing as a toddler.

I currently sit as a parent rep on two Nevada committees - the 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." - Cheers from the Adams Family ~ Jason, Andrea, Jack, Nolan, and Wesley

— Upcoming Event in Nevada —

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

AER International Conference 2018

July 25 – 29

Peppermill Resort, Reno, Nevada

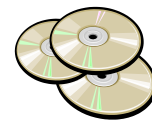
<https://aerbvi.org/event/aer-international-conference-2018/>



— For Families & Professionals —

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY

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



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.

Don't forget! Mother's Day is May 13th

A Child with Special Needs — This DVD features families who share their personal stories in order to help other families understand the experiences, emotions and challenges they will encounter. It provides information on: What to do when you find out that your child has a special need; Moving from confusion and grief to acceptance and empowerment; Finding answers and getting help; Speaking up as your child's best advocate; The importance of looking beyond the diagnosis; and, Focusing on your child's unique strengths.

More Than A Mom: Living A Full And Balanced Life When Your Child Has Special Needs — Research, personal experiences, and feedback from over 500 mothers across North America results in a book that is jam-packed with practical strategies, advice, and reassurance for mothers trying to create more manageable and fulfilling lives.

Unexpected Journey: When Special Needs Change Our Course — A comprehensive resource for families confronted with the challenge of special needs. This is a book by a husband and wife whose course in life changed with the birth of their first child. With honesty and sensitivity it offers practical encouragement from parents who have been there.

Building a Joyful Life with your Child who has Special Needs — This book considers the challenges of caring for children with physical, and developmental disorders. Chapters deal with key topics such as coping with a diagnosis, discussing support needs and explaining a child's differences to their peers, and the authors stress the importance of parents building support systems for themselves and their children.

Don't forget! Father's Day is June 17th

Father's Voices: A Journey of the Heart — This DVD focuses on four dads and how their lives have been dramatically changed because of their children.

Dads of Disability: Stories for, by, and about fathers of children who experience disability — This book helps to show that Dads can be, and are a part of raising a child with a disability. The essays within provide insight into a father's reaction to learning his child has a disability, how he adapts and copes, the learning curve involved, the bond and love that forms along with further describing in some cases the death of a child and how one grieves. There are 41 essays in this book.

Father's Day: A Journey into the Mind and Heart of My Extraordinary Son — Buzz Bissinger's twins were born three minutes—and a world—apart. Gerry, the older one, is a graduate student at Penn, preparing to become a teacher. His brother Zach has spent his life attending special schools. He'll never drive a car, or kiss a girl, or live by himself, and is challenged by serious intellectual deficits. This is their journey!

Special Children, Challenged Parents: The Struggles and Rewards of Raising a Child With a Disability — This book shares *the unique perspective of a father* of a son with autism, with additional reflection from his perspective as a clinical psychologist who specializes in working with families of children with a wide range of disabilities.

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

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

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

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

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, Ely and Winnemucca:***

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! Look for our collection bins around town! For information, call the Continuum’s Early Intervention department at (775) 221-8054 or email info@continuumreno.com. Visit continuumreno.com
- Join us April 29th at the **JUSTinHOPE Spring Forward for Autism Walk!** Visit justinhope.org for more information.

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 Jessica Hartley at: 702-329-0345

⇒ ***Kideology—Las Vegas:***

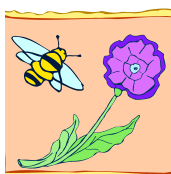
⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:***

- **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



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>



Family Survey!

Dear Parents/Families,

For families with over 6 months of service, you will be receiving, or already have, the annual family survey.

Every year the U.S. Department of Education requires all states to submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) in order to receive federal funding. As part of this APR states must provide information about families receiving early intervention services and family outcomes.

Nevada collects and reports information on three family outcomes related to receiving early intervention services. This report, following the perspective of family-centered services, covers families who are currently receiving early intervention services for at least 6 months and determines if families feel their providers have helped them:

1. Know their rights under early intervention.
2. Effectively communicate their children's needs.
3. Help their children develop and learn

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 talk to your Service Coordinator or call us at Project Assist, Toll Free: **1-800-522-0066** or email: **ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov**