

IDEA Part C Fall to Winter Family Newsletter

November-December 2014 Volume 4 No 6

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

Dear Parents/Families,

As parents of a child with multiple disabilities we have found it to be helpful to have a good understanding of the laws meant to support us.

Natural environments are places that include the same activities and routines that children of similar ages without disabilities take part in, a place where a child without a disability would normally be found. The law requires all children from birth to 36 months receive ALL of their early intervention (EI) services in a natural environment, except where there is a justifiable reason for not doing so.

Activities might take place at home or other places the family and the child go during the course of their everyday lives. An EI service provider helps parents adapt daily routines and activities. It can be home, daycare, the park, but it is not a place created just for children to receive early intervention services, which would not be a natural environment.

The service provider may bring in toys or adaptive equipment but most often uses items in your home or in places where you would normally be with your child. When a family is in a familiar and comfortable environment, the child can play the way they usually would play. By observing your child in a natural environment, the service provider can help your child meet outcomes under your Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The service provider can also support your child's caregiver if your child goes to child care.

Most research shows that Children learn best in natural environments, and that parents are their children's natural teachers as they grow. It has also shown that children gain skills faster when taught in a natural environment by people they know.

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

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell

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



Dan, Eric and Cheryl

NEVADA's EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

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

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.)

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

The **American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry** (AAPD) mission is to advocate policies, guidelines and programs that promote optimal oral health and oral health care for children. The AAPD welcomes you to our consumer portal, www.mychildrensteeth.org. As the recognized authority on pediatric oral health care, it's important to us that parents and caregivers have a resource they can turn to whether they are looking for general information related to their child's dental health or guidance on a specific issue -- this is the right place!

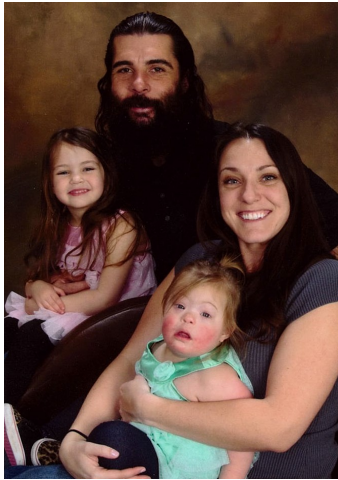
ECTA Center's Topic Page on Autism

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center's topic pages are a great place to find resources. Their Autism page offers information on early identification of ASD in young children, elements of effective programs, personnel preparation to serve young children with ASD, resources for families, and more.

<http://www.ectacenter.org/topics/autism/autism.asp>

Been there, done that!

"I am originally from Cottonwood, AZ, and started moving around right after high school. My first stop was North Carolina, then I moved to Fort Wainwright, Fairbanks, AK where I worked as a Facility Manager. I lived in Alaska for three years and loved it! Then I worked as an Administrative Assistant at the Sierra Army Depot in Herlong, CA.



Christine and her family

While working at the Sierra Army Depot I met my husband, Jack Riggi. We then moved to Reno, NV in 2008. We started our family and were blessed with Kora Jo on April 21, 2010, followed by LeAnna Marie on March 14, 2012.

I currently work for the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System as a Biomedical Assistant Manager. With a growing family and new rolls in the community I made it a personal goal to go out and actively seek information and advocacy for individuals with disabilities. Since our youngest Daughter was diagnosed with Down syndrome I have been motivated to learn and participate in local activities to gain knowledge and support.

I have been assisting with a Family Support Group and Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada (DSNNN) for a little over 2 years now, most recently being appointed as a chairperson.

While participating with DSNNN I heard of a leadership training program called PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING. I am a proud graduate of this program, having gained the knowledge and skills for advocacy, not only for my daughter but for anyone with a disability.

While doing outreach I heard of the State's Early Intervention INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) and wanted to use the new skills and information to help other families. It is my personal passion to learn as much as possible and then in return apply and share that knowledge with others for an effective and caring community." ~ Christine Riggi, ICC Parent Representative



The University's **Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities** is seeking motivated, interested **parents** of children with developmental disabilities in Southern Nevada, to become candidates for **NEVADA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING, Class of 2015. *Limited Space!**

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** class starts early next year.

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.

If you are interested, visit their website: <http://nced.info/pip/> or contact **Diana Rovetti**: rovetti@unr.edu

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:

- **Community Play Group** 2nd and 4th Friday each month, 10:30 am.

⇒ Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:

- **Dec 6th** - NEIS-NW Reno annual **"Family Holiday Party at the Discovery Museum."** Santa, cookies, museum passes and MORE! Please watch for flyers to come providing more detail about this party for our families!
- **Family Support Group**, by Down Syndrome Network - The 1st Thursday each month [except for Summer months activities or other events] 5:45 pm, at NEIS-Enterprise. 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-Enterprise, by RSVP only! Please call 775-823-9500 to RSVP.
- **RAVE** will 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 or email: lschoen@health.nv.gov
- **Dec 9th** - **Annual Friend's Craft Fair** at NEIS-NW from 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Find unique and handmade gifts for your gift giving needs! All proceeds go to support "Friends of Special Children". Contact Johnette Oman at (775) 688-1341 if you are interested in participating as a vendor!
- **Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, Enterprise Rd., the 4th Thursday every other month at 6:00 pm.

⇒ The Continuum—Reno:

- **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:

- Easter Seals Nevada is hosting **playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! For more information call or email Ella Philander, at 428-4335 or ella.philander@eastersealsnevada.org

⇒ Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:

⇒ Positively Kids—Las Vegas:

- Come and join us for our new playgroup at Windmill Library (Windmill & Rainbow). Call Sally for info at 702-577-3104
- Like us on **Facebook**, see all the great things we have happening! <https://www.facebook.com/positivelykids>

⇒ Therapy Management Group—Las Vegas:

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, 6-8pm, at 6600 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 111
- TMG offers a **weekly playgroup** for children in our program. A variety of themes with coordinating activities for children 18 to 36 months will be introduced each week. Contact: Sarah Petrocelli @ 340-5521 or spetrocelli@tmgnv.com

July 20-21, 2015—NEVADA DISABILITIES CONFERENCE II **At the Nugget, Sparks, NV**

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 over 2 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, bringing as many as 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!**

For more information visit **Family TIES** - www.familytiesnv.org



EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION *LIBRARY*—

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

Breakthrough Parenting for Children with Special Needs: Raising the Bar of Expectations, Award-winning writer Judy Winter helps parents 'raise the bar of expectations' for their challenged children. Winter fought for a normal life for her son, Eric, before losing him to cerebral palsy. "The demands of special needs challenged me to the limits of human endurance and helped me realize my most heartfelt life dreams, too," she writes. From getting over the myth of the perfect baby, to dealing with staring, to maneuvering the school system, her wisdom is both practical and inspiring. A particularly useful guide to those just starting out on the journey of dealing with special needs... covers grief, hope, services & supports, understanding the law and inclusion, planning for the future.

Library materials are available statewide. Contact your service coordinator. Questions or recommendations for the Library, please contact **Project ASSIST** toll free **1-800-522-0066** or ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov

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 will 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/

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/>

FREE.... participation in the national **EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE (EIFA)** to *all* who are interested 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.

Participants 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



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

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

