

Nevada Early Intervention Summer – Fall Family Newsletter

September - October 2017 Volume 7 No 5

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

Dear Parents/Families,

By seeking help from early intervention (EI) services for your child you were probably hoping to learn new information about your child and about how you could assist them in their overall development.

The goal of EI services is to give very young children (birth to 36 months) a good beginning in closing developmental gaps that may have occurred because of a diagnosed disability or "high-risk" condition in their young lives.

EI enhances their overall growth by supporting the development of skills that other kids their age typically acquire, and is also designed to support and teach the family effective ways to interact with their child and each other.

One might ask why so much emphasis is placed on EI if services

are only available for a short few years.

Children do not stop learning once they turn three years of age, and current brain research suggests that there exists a "window of opportunity" while they are in their early years where neurological brain paths are still growing the most. Research shows that the earlier the intervention, the more we are able to close those developmental gaps.

If you would like more information about Nevada's Early Intervention Services, you can contact us at: ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call 1-800-522-0066.

You can also read the [Parent Handbook](#) for more information at: http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell

*The first Sunday of September following Labor Day is **National Grandparents Day**. This year it is on September 10. Grandparents are important sources of support and often play very important roles in the lives of our children with a disability or special health care need. So remember to celebrate our grandparents, spend some time to acknowledge and appreciate grandparents and all of the love and support they bring to our lives.*

WE DID IT! AGAIN!!!

Congratulations to the Early Intervention Services System in Nevada! For the second year in a row, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced the U.S. Department of Education has determined Nevada meets the requirements and purposes of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Part C of the IDEA establishes the requirements for the statewide system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities ages birth to three. The determination of meets requirements is the highest of four possible performance levels. It is a credit to everyone who works to ensure supports are available to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. To read the letter of acknowledgment you can access it on the IDEA Part C Office Publications page at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Publications/>



Cheryl, Eric, and Dan

NEVADA's EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

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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!

**The Nevada Partners
Leadership Program —**
See last page. Share it!

Live in Northern Nevada?
Consider this leadership
training and fill out the
application! **It's FREE!!!**

happy
grand
parents day

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. Families and community partners are invited to all ICC meetings. The next few meetings:

Thursday—August 31, at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday—October 26, at 9:00 a.m.

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

Check the meeting agendas for changes—posted at:

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

It is especially important to hear from families and we encourage you to participate. If you would like more information about attending meetings or how to submit public comments to the Council, please 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.

October marks the Anniversary of the passage of Public Law 99-457, which established Part C (early intervention) and mandated Part B, Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These programs have played a critical role in improving results and supporting infants, toddlers, and preschool children with disabilities and their families. <http://idea.ed.gov/>

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

The ECTA Center ***Practice Guides for Families*** are intended to increase families understanding and the importance of evidence based practices. The Practice Guides are formatted for print as well as for viewing on mobile devices.

<http://ectacenter.org/decrp/type-pgfamily.asp>

"Families at the Center of Early Childhood Intervention"

Chances are you will be working with professionals who say they are family-centered or use family-centered practices. When this is the case, you and your family should expect to be treated in certain ways and be actively involved in decision-making and actions to achieve family-identified outcomes and goals. This practice guide includes things that are helpful to know about family-centered practices.

http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/decrp/PG_Fam_FamiliesattheCenter_family_print_2017.pdf

The Complete List of Free Things and Grants for Kids With Special Needs

This link covers travel helps, therapy tools and mobility aids, financial assistance and a few extras. . .

"We always want to provide the best for our kids, but somehow the pressure is even greater when our kids have special needs. Of course there are direct costs, such as the need for medical equipment to make their lives easier, but we also want to provide them with happy memories to at least partly make up for the tough times they experience at a very young age.

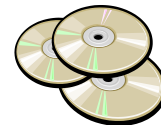
Fortunately, there's no need to feel all alone. There are some marvelous organizations out there that really want to help. Why not give them an opportunity to do so? Are you managing just fine on your own? Consider donating to these worthy causes instead.

For this list we've covered the names of organizations providing medical and therapy help that we can find, but do suggest you ask your own medical supports about local non-profits, and feel free to share with us the names of any organizations that have been of help to your family".

<https://www.dontpayfull.com/blog/free-things-and-grants-for-kids-with-special-needs>

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.

"That's My Child: Strategies for Parents of Children with Disabilities" — This book explores the different sources of formal and informal support available to parents with children who have all types of disabilities. Includes information on organizations, legal rights, special education, recreational activities, day care, and many other topics.

"Views from our Shoes: Growing up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs" — brief essays by children and young adults who have a sibling with special needs, ranging from mental retardation through a number of rare syndromes. The writings are arranged in chronological order, from that of a 4 year old to an 18 year old. As such, they vary in insights into family relationships. The writings seem to be quite honest as some children come right out and say that they feel they are treated unfairly and that their siblings can get away with things that they cannot. In most cases, however, the children speak out against those who make fun of or misunderstand the youngsters who are different.

"Including Samuel" DVD — Before his son Samuel was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, photojournalist Dan Habib rarely thought about the inclusion of people with disabilities. Now he thinks about inclusion every day. Shot and produced over four years, Habib's award-winning documentary film, "Including Samuel," chronicles the Habib family's efforts to include Samuel in every facet of their lives... and also features four other families with varied inclusion experiences, plus interviews with teachers, parents, and disability rights experts.

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

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

FREE!!! Online e-Magazines

FREE!!! Exceptional Parent Magazine provides practical advice and emotional support to families of children and adults with disabilities and special health care needs, as well as the physicians, allied health care and educational professionals who are involved in their care and development. Now available online **free** to interested readers. Simply send an email to fsimon@ep-magazine.com requesting a **free** subscription. You will receive the e-Magazine each month via email along with instructions on how to download a printable PDF. Or go to: <http://ep-magazine.com/resend.php>

FREE!!! Parenting Special Needs Magazine is a **free**, online, bi-monthly publication for parents and dedicated to helping the special needs community. It covers all the ages, stages and different disabilities, as well as providing an invaluable resource for the parents and caregivers of those with special needs. Web: <http://parentingspecialneeds.org/> or <https://www.parentingspecialneeds.org/submit/>

FREE!!! Informational e-Newsletters

For information about infants and young children, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is the world's largest publisher of pediatric content. **HealthyChildren.org** is their digital extension of the AAP mission to provide the most trustworthy health content to parents and caregivers at home, on the go, and from anywhere in the world. Want to receive their **free** E-newsletters? Register for HealthyChildren.org to have all the latest information delivered directly to your email: <https://www.healthychildren.org/english/pages/login.aspx>

Baby Talk, from Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is **free** and distributed monthly. It is full of resources to support anyone who works with infants and toddlers. All issues feature resources that are high quality and readily available at no cost. To join the listserv, send **an email with no message** to subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu or go to <http://fpg.unc.edu/resources/baby-talk-archive>

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.

⇒ **Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:**

⇒ **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

⇒ **Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:**

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

⇒ **ISS Baby Steps—Las Vegas:**

- ISS Baby Steps is participating in **Walk for Families with Children with Apraxia** on October 7, at Lone Mountain Discovery Park. Contact 702-586-93100
- **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:**

- **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>



Been there, done that!

Building the Next Generation of Leaders. . .

The most **AWESOME** training for parents is coming to Northern Nevada this Fall! *And it's FREE!* The **Nevada Partners Leadership Program**, formerly Partners in Policymaking, a very intense and innovative national model of leadership training, is 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 training will start in September 2017, in Reno. Classes will be held one time per month, on a Saturday, from September through May (skipping December). Limited number of seats available. **Apply today! Help get the word out!!!**

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

UNR's Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities is **seeking applications from highly motivated, interested parents** of children with developmental delays or disabilities, to become candidates for **Nevada Partners Leadership Program, Class of 2018**.

Participants will gain:

- **Valuable working knowledge on disability issues** and information on resources available in their community.
- **Advocacy skills.**
- **New relationships** with people who have the same interests as you.

Participants are required to:

- Commit to attend eight (8) Saturday sessions. [September 16, October 14, November 18, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 7, May 5]
- Complete homework assignments between sessions.
- Commit to a project to be completed after graduation.

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM is all 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 table.

Location of the classes: UNR Redfield Campus at 18600 Wedge Pkwy, Reno, NV

Submit Application: https://unr-vbepl.formstack.com/forms/reno_2018

or contact **Diana Rovetti:** rovetti@unr.edu or 775-682-9060

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

A Program of the UNR **NEVADA CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITIES**

A PARENT IS A CHILD'S BEST ADVOCATE, AND EVERYONE HAS THE ABILITY TO BECOME A STRONG ADVOCATE. HOWEVER, TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE, YOU MUST SPEND TIME PREPARING AND LEARNING IMPORTANT ADVOCACY SKILLS.