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Nevada Early Intervention Spring Family Newsletter

March – April 2019

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

Dear Parents/Families,

TRANSITION - It goes by so fast! Early Intervention (Part C) serves children up to their third birthday. If your child will need continued support, they will transition to attend a pre-school program (Part B) under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and it is very important to plan ahead so that the transition for your child and you goes smooth.

Your early intervention program will help with a transition plan. They should start planning with you, a critical member of the team, shortly after your child has turned two years of age.

Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) For Families — It is key that parents

and families understand the laws as their children with disabilities transition out of Part C services. The ECTA Center provides many resources related to the transition that children make from Part C to Part B programs and services, including a **Learning Guide for Families** at:

https://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/decrp/PG_Trn_EItoPreschool_prac_print_2017.pdf

Explore these resources to help you understand your rights under Part C and Part B.

Read your **Parent Handbook**, and if you have questions contact us at: ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or 1-800-522-0066

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell



Cheryl, Eric, and Dan

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

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To receive the newsletter electronically contact us!
ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

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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.)

Dear Parents/Families,

We need you! 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. Meetings are usually (except face-to-face) held via video conference in Carson City, Elko, Las Vegas and Reno. Selected dates for the next few meetings:

Thursday—April 11, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. (annual face-to-face meeting in Reno)

Always check the meeting agendas for locations, times and 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 contact us at ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or 1-800-522-0066

WELCOME

Nevada's new State Part C Coordinator — Under the U.S. Department of Education, IDEA Part C (Early Intervention programs) is designed to assist any child under the age of three years who has developmental delays or disabilities. The U.S. Department of Education and federal law is reasonably specific about parents' rights, types of services to be provided, types of persons who are qualified to deliver services, how services should be provided, and how they are to be coordinated.

In each state there is a lead agency [in Nevada it is the Department of Health and Human Services, IDEA Part C Office] for the State's early intervention programs; and within that agency, a person is designated as the State "Part C Coordinator." It is the Part C Coordinator's responsibility to oversee the program in such a way that it complies with all federal and state requirements in meeting the needs of infants or toddlers and their families. Some of a Part C Coordinator's responsibilities include:

- a) Identify and represent the interests of infant and toddler early intervention programs;
- b) Develop and recommend models, standards, policies, and programs that promote evidenced-based practices and quality services for eligible infants and toddlers and their families; and
- c) Strengthen current leadership and foster new leadership in early intervention programs at the local and state levels, including best practice and strong family engagement.



As of December 3, 2018, **Lori Ann Malina-Lovell** began her new position as the State Part C (Early Intervention) Coordinator for the Director's Office of the Department of Health and Human Services. Her office is located in Las Vegas, Nevada. We are all delighted to welcome her to this position.

Before joining the Part C team, Lori Ann worked in both public and private sectors of early intervention, primarily as a Developmental Specialist, supervisor, outreach coordinator and endorsement liaison with Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS)-South. Lori Ann is very engaged in promoting community cohesiveness and community health for vulnerable populations. During her doctoral practicum, she performed evidence-based research in Las Vegas communities to strengthen parent education through social emotional learning groups.

Lori Ann's educational background includes a Master of Education in Special Education from UNLV and a Doctor of Public Health with a specialization in Epidemiology from Capella University.

Her knowledge, years of experience in early intervention services, and leadership skills will serve well in her new position and in her efforts to make Nevada's early intervention services a system of family-centered and evidence-based, best practices within IDEA law and regulation.

When Lori Ann is away from the office, she enjoys spending time with her family of 5 children and 2 adorable grandchildren. Lori Ann lives in Henderson, NV with her husband, Johnny and 3 beautiful dogs.

Lori Ann Malina-Lovell, DrPH, Clinical Program Planner I
IDEA State Part C Coordinator
Phone: 702-486-3012
Email: lamalinalovell@dhhs.nv.gov

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

Early Intervention Program Highlight



Our Early Intervention program services young children with disabilities in order to help them reach their adaptive, cognitive, communicative, social/emotional, and physical goals. We offer various forms of therapy such as: occupational, physical, speech, and feeding. Also, we host a variety of exciting events throughout the year!

Play Group

A program for children two years and older that utilizes the strategies provided in the Parent Education Model. Children attend play group three times a month where they work towards cooperatively interacting with peers, focusing during structured activities that are developmentally age-appropriate and transitioning smoothly from one activity to another.

Our **CreARTivity** program was started in 2018. It was made possible due to grants and donations from within the community. We have held three events this year which were: Art in the Park, Sensory Adventures, and our Annual Children's Holiday Party. During each event children take part in hands on activities that stretch their imagination. They are able to create unique sensory and art projects. Our events are held on a quarterly basis and are open to all children enrolled into an Early Intervention program.

Music Together Program

Music Together is an out sourced music program that helps teach children body awareness, peer interaction, and develop a love for music.



*“Children learn as they play.
Most importantly, in play children learn to learn.”*

- O. Fred Donaldson

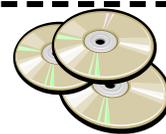
- ◇ March is national Cerebral Palsy (CP) Awareness Month
- ◇ April is national Autism Awareness Month

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



For Families & Professionals —

FREE LENDING LIBRARY



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

"A Child with Special Needs" – this DVD 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.

"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. 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."

"Building a Joyful Life with your Child who has Special Needs" – This book considers the challenges of caring for children with physical, developmental and mental health disorders. Chapters deal with key topics such as coping with a diagnosis, discussing support needs with a child's teachers 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.

"Chicken Soup for the Soul: Children with Special Needs-Stories of love and understanding for those who care for children with disabilities" – Raising a child with special needs is a lifelong commitment that is as unique as each person who embarks on it. Chicken Soup for the Soul: Children with Special Needs offers a glimpse into the lives of others who are on a similar path.

Hundreds of books and DVDs are 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/>

Vacation season is coming. . . **FREE** – All National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Access Pass



This is a **lifetime pass for U.S. citizens (includes children)/permanent residents with permanent disabilities**. Documentation is needed to obtain the pass. The pass in most cases provides free access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance fee, as well as possible discounts on other fees. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas, and pass holder + 3 others, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas. **The pass can only be obtained in person at the park or from a participating Federal recreation site or office.**

For more information, visit... <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html>

Check out these self regulation handouts developed by **University of North Carolina's Franklin Porter Graham Child Development Institute** to work with childcare or preschool to help identify areas that a child needs to work on. Self-regulation includes cognitive, emotional, and behavioral skills and processes that support children in coping with strong feelings, controlling impulses, learning, and getting along with others. The **Infant and Toddlers Snapshot** can help caregivers understand how their interactions can build self regulation skills. <http://fpg.unc.edu/resources/self-regulation-snapshots>

Project ASSIST is Nevada's early intervention **Central Directory** for anyone seeking information about organizations, programs or agencies that may provide services and supports for young children with disabilities or delays, and their families. The Early Childhood Special Education Library is also a part of the Central Directory. It is a federal requirement that every state participating in Part C of IDEA have a Central Directory specifically for families in early intervention services. The purpose of the Central Directory is to provide information, research for resources, and referral services to inform and educate families of infants and toddlers with disabilities or special health care needs, and the general public, and to help improve outcomes for families and communities statewide. For information call **1-800-522-0066**, email ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov, or visit the website below.

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

Family Survey!

Dear Parents/Families,

For families with over 6 months of service, you will soon 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

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, each month at the Sparks Library. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. For more information: 775-825-4744.
- **Feeding Group** on the 1st & 3rd Monday of every month at APT, where they will work on food exploration and play for picky eaters.
- See APT at the **Spring Forward for Autism** 5K Run/Walk on April 28th!

⇒ ***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:***

- **Breastfeeding Circle** at NEIS — Every Wednesday from 5:30—6:30 pm. Contact Emily Chappell, 775-223-2127
- **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.

⇒ ***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>

