

Child Find & Public Awareness

C A L I F O R N I A

EARLY START



With Early Start... We make a difference

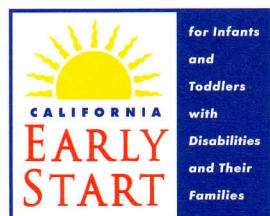
Early Start has a comprehensive interagency child find system that ensures all infants and toddlers who may be eligible for early intervention services are located, identified, and referred to the appropriate agency for evaluation for services. Child find activities are conducted at the state level by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and at the local level by regional centers, Early Start Family Resource Centers, and local education agencies.

Public awareness activities promote child find by focusing on early identification and timely referrals. Early Start has a variety of materials and products to support child find, public awareness, and outreach. These materials ensure appropriate referrals, increase the community's knowledge and understanding of early intervention services, and support the families' role in early intervention.

Early Start family resource centers (FRCs) participate in public awareness activities that include community outreach, information dissemination, and referral. FRCs also assist families with how to access the early intervention service system.

Early Start Resources (ESR), a WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention project, under contract with DDS, facilitates implementation of Early Start's public awareness activities including targeted outreach to hard-to-reach populations. At the direction of DDS, ESR produces and disseminates a variety of public awareness materials and products that promote Early Start such as the *Early Start Central Directory of Early Intervention Resources*. Multilingual materials are also available.

For more information, visit DDS' Early Start website at www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart, or call Early Start Resources at 800/869-4337 for free product information, including multilingual resources, on early intervention.



800.515.BABY
www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart