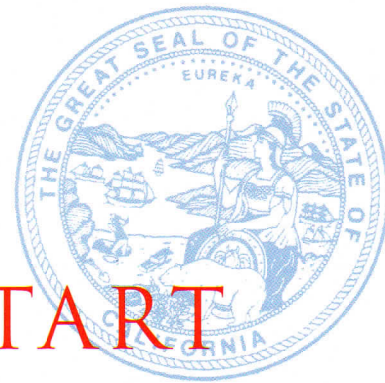


CALIFORNIA

# EARLY START



*With Early Start... We make a difference*

**The Need for Early Intervention**

- ▶ Each year more than 500,000 babies are born in California.
- ▶ From January 1995-2005, the number of individuals served by DDS in the community, including children ages birth-3, increased 68% (DDS Fact Book, 9th Edition, 2007).
- ▶ 11.9% of all individuals served by the developmental services system are birth-3 years (DDS Fact Book, 9th Edition, 2007).
- ▶ 60% of persons entering the developmental services system were younger than 3 years of age (DDS Fact Book, 9th Edition, 2007).

**The Demand for Early Intervention**

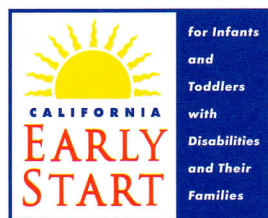
- ▶ California Early Start now serves more than 46,000 children under the age of 3 each year (DDS, 2005).
- ▶ California Early Start grew an average of 7.4% annually from 2002-2004 (DDS 2005).
- ▶ The age group of birth-2 years of age was the segment of the intake population with the largest increase, growing from 36% in December 1995 to 50% in December 2005 (DDS Fact Book, 9th Edition, 2007).

**Early Intervention is Effective**

- ▶ Years of research on the effectiveness of intervention has shown conclusively that early intervention is effective (Wolery & Bailey, 2003; Guralnick, 1997).
- ▶ Specialized services and supports, such as physical therapy, speech and language therapy, special instruction, home visits, family support, and service coordination, increase the chances a child will develop to his or her full potential (*Zero to Three Policy Brief*, February 2003).
- ▶ Most parents considered early intervention to have had a significant impact on their families (National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study 2007).
- ▶ In a national study, 76% of families indicated that early intervention had a lot of impact (National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study 2007).

**Early Intervention Saves Money**

- ▶ Research has shown that early intervention with young children, from birth to age 5, with disabilities or who are at risk for developmental difficulties, benefits both children and families and assures long-term cost savings to both local educational agencies and society (National Association of School Psychologists, 2003).



800.515.BABY  
[www.dds.ca.gov/  
earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart)