



# EARLY START: OVERVIEW & OUTREACH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' TRAINING  
FEBRUARY 3, 2022

# ELIGIBILITY AND SERVICE TEAMS

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## Eligibility Team

- Intake (Pat Glancy, MSW and Rachel Khorana, BA)
- Clinical specialists (Iris Richard, MD and Quynh Gredig, RN)

## Service Team

- Early Start service coordination (Jennifer Castle, MS, Ana Ruano-Monarrez, BS, Jeanette Yabuki, MA, Araceli Mendez, BS)
- Early Start specialists (Rebecca Sirbu, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and Christine Espitia, Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP))
- Service providers

# OBJECTIVES

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- The importance of the Early Start program
- Early Start eligibility
- Early Start services
- Service monitoring and progression
- Transition from Early Start







# WHAT IS EARLY START?


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- A statewide interagency system of coordinated early intervention services for infants and toddlers who have developmental delays or may be at-risk for disabilities.
- All 21 regional centers are responsible for identifying eligible children (birth to three (3) years of age) in need of early intervention.



# WHY IS EARLY START SO IMPORTANT?

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- Intervention in the first three years of life can make a big difference in a child's development. During this time, infants and toddlers who have a developmental delay or disability need special help to reach their full potential.
  - The earlier children, who may have a developmental delay or disability are identified and receive special services and families receive support regarding their child's development, the greater the outcomes for the child's overall developmental progress.
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# EARLY START OUTREACH



# DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS IN 2021

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Developmental Screening Month	Number of Children Screened	Referrals to RCOC
May 2021	32	9
August 2021	35	16
October 2021	51	7
November 2021	29	15

# EARLY START OUTREACH

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- The following are some examples of RCOC's *Friday Fun Facts* on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram





**Regional Center of Orange County**

Published by Anh Powers · December 18, 2020 ·



This week's **#FunFridayFact!** The human brain is social and relationship dependent. It grows and changes through relationships and social experiences with others, constantly absorbing and storing social experiences. This is especially true of our children who are ages 0-5, with children ages 0-3 in a critical developmental window.

If you feel your child isn't meeting certain developmental milestones, our team can help answer questions and address concerns. Please call RCOC's Intake and Assessment Department at (714) 796-5354 or visit our website at [www.rcocdd.com/intake](http://www.rcocdd.com/intake) **#earlystart #infants #toddlers #braindevelopment #zerotothree #developmentalmilestones** See less



80% of a  
child's brain  
develops  
by age 3

90%  
develops  
by age 5



# SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH



## An Early Start Is the Best Start!

For infants and toddlers, those first five years are critical for their development.

Those who are at risk of a developmental disability, as well as children showing signs of developmental delays, have an amazing opportunity for life-changing interventions through a program called "Early Start."

This program, with services coordinated by regional centers, can change an infant's developmental arc. With tailored therapies, professional guidance, and the work of parents/caregivers, infants and toddlers can see changes that yield a lifetime of benefits.

Even with pandemic restrictions, Regional Center of Orange County is still working to ensure your child has the right services to meet their needs. If you are concerned your child doesn't seem to be at the same place as kids their age, start with a call today!



Regional Center of Orange County Intake Department (714) 796-5354





# EARLY START



Are your children on track?



Babies learn and grow at their own rate. Some babies need a little extra support to meet their developmental milestones. It is important to get help as early as possible if you or your baby's doctor has any concerns about his or her development.

## What is Early Intervention?

The Early Start Program at Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC) provides supports and services for infants and toddlers, birth to 36 months, and their families. This is called Early Intervention. Research shows that Early Intervention can improve developmental and educational outcomes.

## What Services May Be Included?

Depending upon your child's individual needs, services provided might include therapy to help his/her language develop, improve movement, feeding skills, behavior issues and/or learning.

- Developmental evaluation, assessment, and monitoring
- Referral to community resources, including health services
- Infant stimulation/education developmental program
- Physical, occupational, and/or speech/language therapy\*
- Family training/education
- Behavior intervention services\*
- Service coordination
- Audiology services\*
- Assist with connecting to preschool resources and programs for children 3+ years
- Financial assistance for therapy deductible, co-insurance, and copayment

\*If your child qualifies for therapies and these services are not covered by your insurance or other community resources.

## Who is Eligible?

- Children with medical conditions or factors that put them at risk for developmental delays.
- Children with a developmental delay in one or more of the following areas: physical, communication, cognition, social emotional, and/or self-help skills.

## Who can Refer?

The child's parent, relative, doctor, or anyone concerned about the child's development can make a referral. RCOC's Intake Department will contact the parent.

## What will Happen?

The process begins when contact is made with RCOC. Our Early Intervention team will work closely with your family to identify developmental concerns. If applicable, your child may have a formal assessment. Early Start eligibility will be determined within 45 days.

## Is There a Cost?

There is no cost to families for the assessment process to determine eligibility. For any child found eligible for Early Start, services are supported through state and federal funding and medical insurance coordination. RCOC can assist with insurance costs when necessary. Once eligibility is determined, an annual fee may be required, depending on family income.

## How do I get Started?

To begin, you may do any of the following:

- Call Intake Department at (714) 796-5354
- Email [intake@rcocdd.com](mailto:intake@rcocdd.com)
- Visit [www.rcocdd.com/intake/](http://www.rcocdd.com/intake/) to complete the online application, or
- Scan the QR code to go directly to the RCOC website



RCOC is a private, non-profit agency established by the State of California. Early Start services are provided for infants and toddlers, from birth - 36 months of age, with federal funding. RCOC also serves older children and adults with developmental disabilities.

# EARLY START OUTREACH

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- The Early Start Intake application is available on RCOC's website in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean.



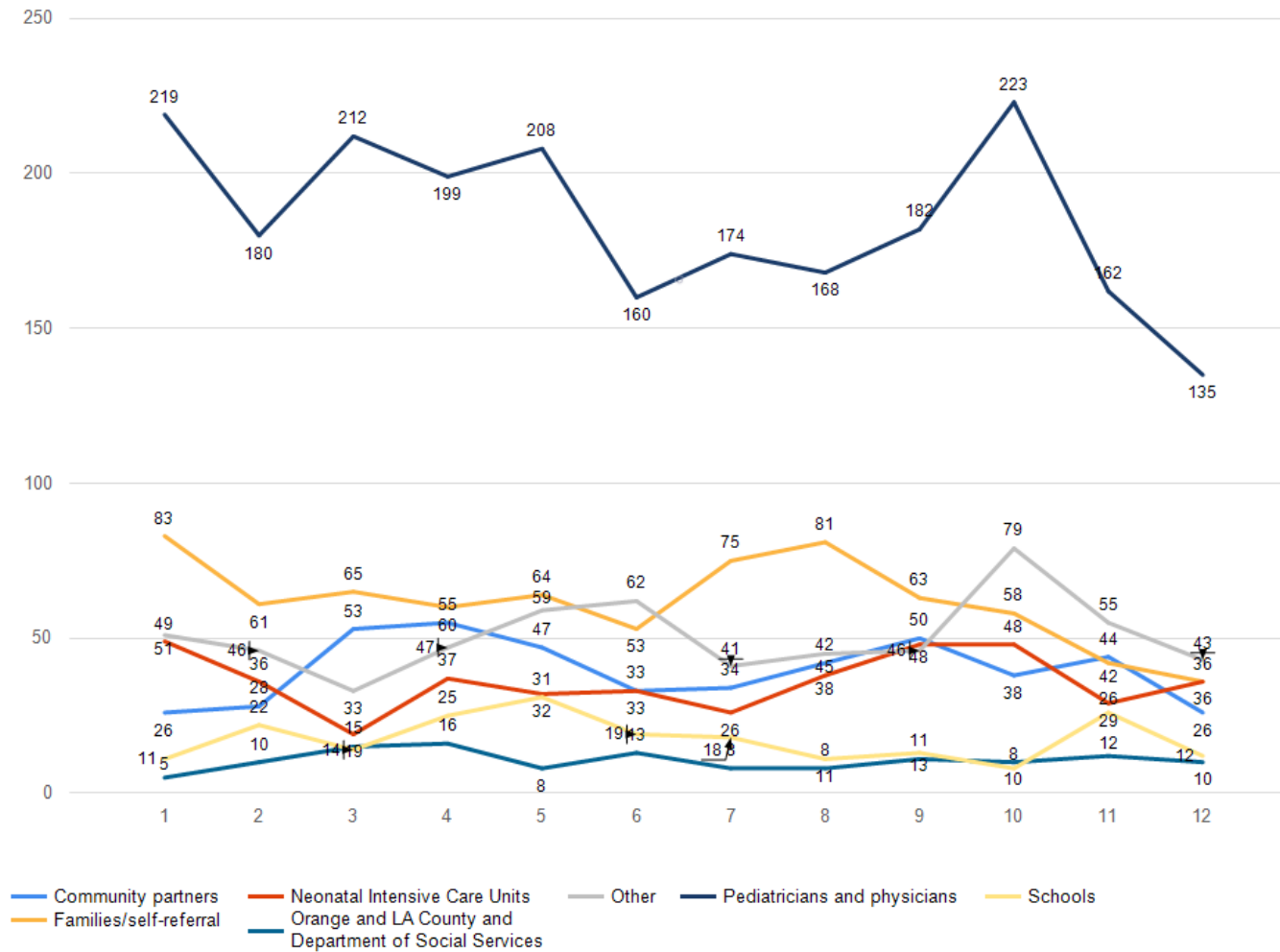
# REFERRAL SOURCES

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- Pediatricians and physicians
- Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs)
- Families/self-referral
- Community partners: Help Me Grow, First 5, CalWORKs Home Visiting Program, Family Support Network, OC Headstart, Public Health Nurse
- Orange County Department of Social Services, Los Angeles County Department of Social Services
- Preschools and day care centers



## Intake Referral Sources In Calendar Year 2019



# EARLY START ELIGIBILITY

Established Risk	High Risk	Developmental Delay
Conditions known to have a high probability of developmental delay (e.g., Down syndrome, severe brain bleed, stroke, meningitis)	Children who have two or more medical conditions that put them at high risk for developmental delays. Children who have a parent served by the regional center.	33% delay in one or more areas of development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cognition</li><li>• Gross motor</li><li>• Fine motor</li><li>• Receptive language</li><li>• Expressive language</li><li>• Social/emotional</li><li>• Self-help/adaptive</li></ul>

# SERVICE PLANNING AND COORDINATION

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- Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)
  - Team members: the family, RCOC's Service Coordinator and specialists, and vendor
  - Intervention services and supports are identified to address the developmental needs of the baby or toddler to achieve family-centered outcomes
- Vendor options and programs: individual vs. multidisciplinary
- Service delivery: in-home, in-center, telehealth, or hybrid
- Team collaboration and communication



# EARLY START SERVICES

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- Early Start services that RCOC purchases
  - Infant development programs: infant stimulation/global delays/ABA
  - Speech therapy
  - Occupational therapy
  - Physical therapy
- Support that RCOC provides to families
  - Referrals to generic resources for services that RCOC cannot purchase, for example, California Children's Services (CCS), pediatrician referrals for insurance-based therapeutic services
  - Family Resource Center

# EARLY START VENDOR PERSPECTIVE

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# BEST PRACTICE EARLY INTERVENTION

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- What is the best way to assess immediate as well as ongoing needs of the child/family?
  - ***Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)/developmental assessments***
- What outcomes will have the most impact on child and family?
  - ***Empower parent to facilitate daily routines and leverage naturally-occurring teaching opportunities***
- How do we achieve those outcomes?
  - ***Coaching caregivers, play-based intervention, structured therapy/teaching interactions***



# FROM THE FIELD



Watch us in action!

[Harbor video 1 Chrissi.mov](#)



# SERVICES FROM A FAMILY'S PERSPECTIVE

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Dear Coyne and Associates,

I want to take this time to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for this amazing agency and organization. As a mother, I am in the midst of an extremely bittersweet transition in my daughter's life. She is about to turn 3 years old and will begin pre-school in just 1 short month and I know in my heart, that milestone would not have been possible without Coyne. Let me explain why....

I had finally settled into coming to terms with [child's name redacted] new mild to moderate risk of ASD when Ashley came into our home and performed the first assessment on [child's name redacted] (and our family). Feeling grossly vulnerable as I thought our entire life would be prosecuted and judged, when Ashley left, I honestly couldn't have felt more of the opposite. Ashley - I will never forget the morning you spent 2 hours in our home assessing - I immediately felt completely at ease with you as your presence silently spoke to me and said, "This is all going to be okay." You also verbally told me "this is all going to be okay" which felt so good because no one had voiced that to me at the time. It was like I was drowning in a pool of parenthood and there you were giving me a hand to pull me up so I could help my child...





# TRANSITION AT AGE 3 FROM REGIONAL CENTER EARLY START SERVICES TO PRESCHOOL

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- Families have access to multiple sources of support from RCOC:
  - Step by step transition plans developed through the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)
  - Recommended websites and written materials, walking families through the process
  - *Moving on at 3* webinars (held every other month)
- Service options for children at age three (3):
  - Special education services
  - Head Start services (home and center based)
  - Medical therapy services through private or public funding
  - Private community preschool
  - Combination of the service options listed above
  - Regional Center of Orange County (Lanterman or Provisional, if the child is eligible)

# LANTERMAN AND PROVISIONAL ELIGIBILITY

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## LANTERMAN ELIGIBILITY

- (1) Have an eligible condition:
  - Intellectual disability (ID), cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or 5<sup>th</sup> category (condition similar to ID)
- (2) Condition is substantially disabling (in three or more areas):
  - Learning, receptive/expressive language, motor, self-care or self-direction
- (3) and the disability is likely to continue indefinitely

## PROVISIONAL ELIGIBILITY

(FOR CHILDREN 3 & 4 YEARS OLD)

- (1) have a disability that is not solely physical in nature and
- (2) has functional limitations in two or more areas:
  - Learning
  - Receptive/expressive language
  - Motor
  - Self-care
  - Self-direction



QUESTIONS?

