

Early Start

EARLY START PROGRAM

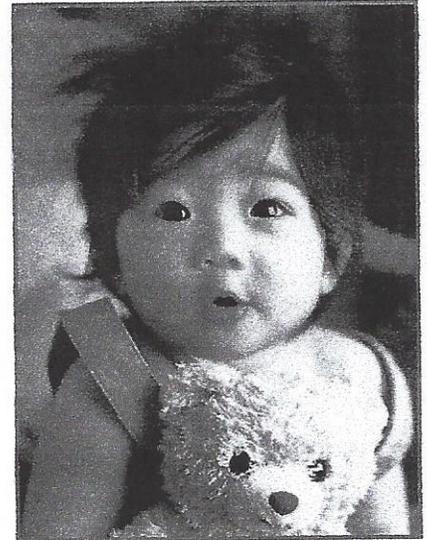
The Early Start Program is California's response to federal legislation ensuring that Early Start services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families are provided in a coordinated, family-centered system of services that are available statewide.

New to Early Start? [View the list of dates for New Parent Orientations here.](#)

Free Training for Early Start Service Providers and Staff. [View the flyer for more information.](#)

[Early Start Fact Sheet](#)

[California Early Start Neighborhood Website](#)



Eligibility Criteria

Infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months may be eligible for Early Start services if, through documented evaluation and assessment, they meet one of the criteria listed below:

- [DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY](#)
- [ESTABLISHED RISK CONDITION](#)
- [HIGH RISK FACTORS](#)

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*High Risk for developmental disability also exists when a multidisciplinary team determines that the parent of an infant or toddler is a person with a developmental disability and the infant or toddler requires early start services based on evaluation and assessment.

Intake Process

In order to determine your child's eligibility, ELARC will conduct a comprehensive intake process including evaluation of your child's developmental level and a review of available medical records/history. The Early Start Program Application contains the forms required for ELARC to initiate the intake process. Upon submitting a completed Early Start Program Application, an Early Start Coordinator or support staff will contact you to schedule an intake appointment. Call (626) 299-4777 for information regarding the application process.

Apply for Early Start Services

Anyone can make a referral to the Early Start Program, including parents, health care providers, neighbors, family members, foster parents, day care providers, other interested parties. The first step is for parents to discuss their concerns with their health care provider/pediatrician.

- Parents may obtain the [Early Start Program Application here](#)
- Agencies may fax Early Start referrals to (626) 299-4798.

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The Early Start Intake Department may be reached at (626) 299-4777 or (626) 299-4691 with any questions.

If the child has a visual impairment, hearing impairment, or severe orthopedic impairment, or any combination of these, contact the school district for evaluation and Early Start services. Click [here](#) to view the LA County District Locator.

After Application is Submitted

Within 45-days of receiving an Early Start Application/referral, ELARC will take the following steps:

- Assign a service coordinator to assist the family through evaluation and assessment procedures.
- Schedule and complete evaluations and assessments for the child's development to assist in determining Early Start eligibility.
- If an infant or toddler is eligible for Early Start services, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be developed that addresses the strengths and needs of the infant or toddler, parent concerns, and identifies required Early Start services.
- If an infant or toddler is not eligible for Early Start services, the parents will be notified and informed of any recommendations.