



Hope! Dream!
Achieve!



Parent Links
Is...
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Time for Early Start

Views and opinions in this article are presented as information only. Parent Links *Hope! Dream! Achieve* remains neutral and supportive of ALL choices.

Individual Family Support Plan

School is around the corner.

Meetings for the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) will soon be scheduled. If this is your child's first year in the Early Start program this may all be new to you. Let's take a look at what an IFSP is and how it works to support your child.

What is the IFSP?

The IFSP is a written plan which is the framework for meeting the unique needs of a child and a family. This plan is developed at the IFSP meeting by a team which includes the parents/guardians, the service coordinator or anyone who has evaluated the child. Parents may also invite other family members, friends, advocates, or other supportive people.

Where and when is the IFSP meeting held?

This meeting must be held at a time and place that is most convenient for all persons involved.

What will be discussed?

The discussion will include:

- Child's present levels of development.
- Family's concerns, priorities and resources which relate to the child's development.
- Major goals/outcomes for the next 6-12 months.
- Specific services the child will receive, including:
 - Where
 - How often
 - Approximate starting dates
- Any other services needed by the child or family such as health care, etc

Getting ready for the IFSP

Before the meeting

- Prepare by making a list of the things you want to discuss.
- You may ask to see what's in your child's file to help you prepare.
- If you'd like, you may invite someone to come with you to the meeting (friend, relative, advocate, Parent Link Mentor, therapist, etc.) to be a support, provide information, or take notes. Inform the school ahead of time if someone else will be coming with you to the meeting. Think of your child in various situations (home, school, community). What are your child's particular strengths and needs in these situations?
- Jot these ideas down before the meeting.

At the meeting

- Bring any records or notes that would be helpful.
- Review your past IFSP, circling outcomes which have not been met. Should they remain on the IFSP? Should the methods of instruction or criteria be changed?
- Place a check beside outcomes that have been completed. Ask about the next step.
- Know what your child can currently do in each area. What is his/her present level of performance?
- Do the outcomes address language development as well as any area of delay found in the evaluation and in the present levels of performance section of the IFSP?
- Make sure outcomes are measurable. Will the teacher be able to show you progress?
- What amount, place or type of service would be appropriate for your family and child based on your child's needs and your family's desires?

Directory of Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services



The California Department of Social Services Office of Deaf Access has prepared an online resource booklet. This directory is intended to be used as a guide for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and late deafened, as well as by parents, advocates, state agencies, educators, service providers or anyone who has an interest deaf and hard of hearing services. It provides contact information for programs and services within California and the United States. Within the directory, you will find contact information and many website links to various public and private entities, Go to: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/ODA/EntireDeafDirectory.pdf>
Below is the directory list highlighting areas of interest.

- Advocacy Resources
- Assistance Dogs
- Assistive Technology
- Audiological Services
- Captioning Services
- Children and Family Services
- Communication Access
- Communication Options for a Child Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Telecommunication Access
- Counseling and Rehabilitation Services
- Deaf Access Program
- Deaf-Blind Resources
- Education
- Education for Children with Hearing Loss
- Early Childhood Intervention and Education
- Educational Resources for Children
- Schools for Children with Hearing Loss (Grades K-12)

- Educational Resources for Adults
- California Postsecondary Studies for Deaf Education
- Employment Resources Department of Rehabilitation
- Financial Assistance Program
- Guidelines When Communication with a Person Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants
- Hearing Aids in Public Schools
- Hearing Aid and Cochlear Implant Assistance Programs
- Housing Resources
- Medical Resources
- Organizations and Associations
- Sign Language Interpreting
 - Etiquette When Using a Sign Language Interpreter
 - Sign Language Interpreter Service Information in California



Hands and Voices is Now Coming to California

California Hands & Voices' purpose is simply to provide a safe place to help families with children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing connect to each other, and to empower those families to make informed decisions toward their goal of raising happy and successful children. Check out their website at www.cahandsandvoices.org .

Facebook link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Hands-Voices>

“What Works for Your Child is what makes the Choice Right”



While we try to teach our child all about life
They teach us what life is all about

Unknown

Parent Mentors

Offering support to parents is what Parent Links is all about. Each mentor is a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child.

- Through email, phone and mail we are here to help answer the questions that parents may have about raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Help parents find local connections.
- Parent Mentoring in Spanish and English... Just give us a call.

Exceptional Parents Unlimited

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Counties

Alameda, Contra Costa
Fresno, Kings
Madera, Mariposa
Merced, Monterey
San Benito, San Francisco
San Joaquin, San Mateo
Santa Clara, Santa Cruz
Stanislaus, Tulare

Family Focus Resource & Empowerment Center

April Chauhan
Irma Sanchez
Cora Shahid
Kristal Molina
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330
818-677-6854 Office

Counties

Imperial, Inyo
Kern, Los Angeles
Mono, Orange
Riverside, San Bernardino
San Diego, San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara, Ventura

Rowell Family Empowerment Center

Kat Lowrance
Barb Ciukowski
962 Maraglia Street
Redding, CA 96002
530-226-5129

Counties:

Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras
Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn,
Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin,
Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada,
Placer, Plumas
Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra
Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma
Sutter, Tehama, Trinity
Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba

Featured Link.....



In response to Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Clerc's Children provides an innovative early intervention service targeting deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers, ages 0-5 and their parents.

www.clercschildren.com