



# Nevada Early Intervention Summer –Fall Family Newsletter

September-October 2015 Volume 5 No 5

## Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral...

Dear Parents/Families

Please consider attending. Nevada's INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) was set up to advise and assist Nevada in the development and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. Families and community partners are invited to all ICC meetings.

### MEETING NOTICE

### NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Date and Time of Meeting: **Thursday, October 22, at 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting will be held via video conference in Elko, Las Vegas and Reno.

Please check for locations on the meeting agenda posted at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Meetings/>

It is especially important to hear from families and I encourage you to participate. If you would like more information about attending meetings or how to submit public comments to the Council, please contact me at: [ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov) or [ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov) or call Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066

Sincerely,  
Dan Dinnell



Cheryl, Eric, and Dan

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION  
SERVICES

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Please enjoy the stories  
shared of families who have  
"been there and done that!"  
— See page 2.

\*Web Address: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>

The Part C Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (All items are subject to editing and review.)

Grandparents often play very important roles in the lives of children with a disability or special health care needs. So remember that **September is National Grandparents Month**, a time to acknowledge and appreciate grandparents and all of the love and support they bring to our lives.

\* **Free Guide** from Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG) Helps Parents and Educators Ignite Young Children's Early Language Skills—The popular "**More Than Baby Talk**" guide shows how to spark communication skills in infants and toddlers... more at: <http://mtbt.fpg.unc.edu/>

**FREE....** Participation in the national **EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE (EIFA)** is open to *all interested* in supporting early intervention. . . **Keep informed! Obtain Answers! Impact Policies!**

The EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE is a national leadership organization dedicated to improving outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Members receive email alerts and updates on key early intervention topics and can join the **EIFA list serve** to participate in active discussions and share experiences. Web: [www.eifamilyalliance.org](http://www.eifamilyalliance.org)

# Been there, done that!

"When my first child, Keira, was born premature and in critical condition I quickly learned that it takes a village to raise a child, especially a child with special medical needs. In her first two months, she had open heart surgery, a life threatening infection, and facial surgery. Being new parents bringing home a 3 pound baby, my husband and I felt scared, helpless and unprepared for the future. I believe the hardest part of being a parent of a child with a disability is the unknown. There are millions of parenting handbooks, but every disability is one of kind and the parent has to learn on the job.



After Keira had another 4 surgeries, her doctor referred us to NEIS for therapy. Our third child, Reagan, was also born prematurely and had severe sleep apnea. She was also referred to and received services through NEIS. Our son, Devin, had no medical issues but, benefited greatly from NEIS programs and workshops which focused on the emotional issues and needs for the rest of the family.

Looking back, I think that these programs were as much of a help and resource for me, a parent, as they were to my children. The programs built a foundation for me to help my children and empowered me to be a better parent and caregiver. The programs gave me an invaluable support system. I met countless other parents that understood what we were going through. I knew we weren't alone...which is what I needed most. I became a parent representative on the ICC council because I wanted to make sure that parents in my community know that they aren't alone and there is a lot of help available. I strive to make all the resources known throughout the community and easily accessible to all who need them. I feel that it is important that parents who have experienced the journey, participate and help pave the way for others who will need to follow similar paths. There is no one better to help create, improve and maximize these types of resources than someone who has experienced them firsthand. I know what we needed and the challenges we faced and I know that many others will face them too. Being on the ICC has enabled me to make changes in my community that will improve the lives of my children, as well as countless other children's lives. I encourage all parents to get involved and give back because the rewards are returned exponentially".—Lori O'Leary, ICC Parent Representative

If you are interested in volunteer activities, where you can receive knowledge, share information, gain skills and experience in advocating for others and your family, the STATE EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) has a permanent **FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCE SUBCOMMITTEE** (FSRS) that can always use parents and others who have a passion for supporting early intervention.

For more information, contact: [ProjectAssist@dhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhs.nv.gov) or call 1-800-522-0066



For Families & Professionals

**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY—**

*There are a great many things to learn... check them out!!!*

**NEW Books!!!**

**"Unexpected Journey: When Special Needs Change Our Course"** – Sometimes there is no job on earth more demanding, more lonely and more discouraging than the job of raising a special needs child. And until you've walked that journey yourself, you can never fully appreciate the sacrifice that parents are called on to make. This is a book by a husband and wife whose course in life changed with the birth of their first child.

**"Married with Special-Needs Children: A Couples' Guide to Keeping Connected"** – Raising Special Kids is a mutual support program that allows parents to share stories and explore what works and what doesn't in their unique relationships between their children and families. It is a guide that speaks to parents about how to work on marital issues while juggling the demands of raising a child with a developmental disability, serious medical condition or mental illness. In writing this practical guide, the authors draw on their combined professional experience in marital counseling and parent training, as well as on the experience and advice of hundreds of parents of children with special needs.

**"Parenting Children With Health Issues: Essential Tools, Tips and Tactics for Raising Kids With Chronic Illness, Medical Conditions and Special Healthcare Needs"** – Does your child have a health condition which requires special medical or dietary care? Whatever the health issue, you will learn the essential parenting skills you need to help your child comply with medical requirements, cope well with health challenges and live a hope-filled life. Get practical and compassionate answers to your toughest questions as you discover effective ways to communicate about medical issues with children of all ages.

**"On Becoming a Special Parent: A Mini Support Group in a Book"** – This revised and updated version is a great resource for general information, practical organization information and benefits. It is an uplifting and practical handbook for parents of children with extra needs. Written in hints and easy-to-read suggestions, it guides parents through everyday struggles and frustrations of living with their special needs child. Included is advice for the non-parent, to help them recognize and be sensitive to what families are experiencing.

These library materials are available for use statewide. For more information, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, contact **Project ASSIST** toll free **1-800-522-0066** or [ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov)

Catalog at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/Special-Ed-Library/>

**Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative:** By Parents, for Parents—It's all the insider information about Nevada's Early Intervention Services system in one common place. This project consists of a parent Facebook support page for families with children in Early Intervention Services, information to give parents the basic knowledge they need to access and utilize services effectively, and a website that shares with everyone. **-Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative:** [www.nvparents.com](http://www.nvparents.com)  
**-Facebook:** [www.nvparents.com/fb](http://www.nvparents.com/fb)  
or search for, "Early Intervention Parents NV" in Facebook

**September is National Preparedness Month!...** and being prepared is a good thing, as disasters usually don't give a lot of warning. That makes advance planning for possible difficulties important, especially if you have a child with special needs who may need additional assistance and health or safety precautions.

**Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs**

**Source:** **Red Cross**—[http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA\\_CustomProductCatalog/m4240199\\_A4497.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4240199_A4497.pdf)

**What It Is:** A PDF booklet with ideas on making an escape plan and keeping it up, with reminders of things you need to figure out but might not think about.

**Emergency Preparedness for Families of Children with Special Needs**

**Source:** Consortium for Infant and Child Health (CINCH) Children with Special Health Care Needs Work Group—

<http://www.hampton.k12.va.us/schoolinformation/emergency/EmergencyPreparednessforFamilies.pdf>

**What It Is:** A PDF booklet to help families plan, including advice and forms to fill out and keep handy.

## EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

### NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

#### ⇒ Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:

- The **Family Support Group** is for **ALL** of those families with children with any type of special needs. Join us the first Thursday of each month from 5:45 to 7:30pm [except for Summer months activities or other special events] at Nevada's Early Intervention Services Office in Elko. To RSVP contact Janina Easley at [jfal84@yahoo.com](mailto:jfal84@yahoo.com) or call: 775-828-5153.

### NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

#### ⇒ Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:

- **Community Play groups** at Pah Rah Park every 2nd & 4th Friday, each month at 10:30am. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. Families should call for more information: 775-825-4744.

#### ⇒ Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:

#### ⇒ Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:

- NEIS-Reno's annual "**Trick or Treat**" event on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3-5 pm. Children can trick or treat while parents have an opportunity to meet community providers and hear about local resources, fun for all!
- **Family Support Group**, sponsored by Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada & NEIS - The 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month [except for Summer months activities or other special events] 5:45 pm, at NEIS. Call: 775-828-5159 or e-mail [dsnnninfo@gmail.com](mailto:dsnnninfo@gmail.com) to R.S.V.P.
- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS, by RSVP only! Please call: 775-823-9500 to RSVP.
- **RAVE** will have **Respite Applications** available every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS. Email ahead and let RAVE know they will be there. Email Jenelle Stathes at: [ravefamilies@att.net](mailto:ravefamilies@att.net)
- **Friends of Special Children** - This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested, contact Lori Schoen at: 775-688-0379 or email: [lschoen@health.nv.gov](mailto:lschoen@health.nv.gov)
- **Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, usually the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every other month on the "odd" months, at 6:00 pm. Contact: 775-351-1959, or email: [info@nvhandsandvoices.org](mailto:info@nvhandsandvoices.org)

#### ⇒ Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Reno:

- **Inclusive Developmental Play Group** taking place at Early Head Start. Call Melissa McGovern at: 775-525-4072.

#### ⇒ The Continuum—Reno:

- **Carousel Kids** is an inclusive childcare program. We also offer an intergenerational experience where children interact with elders from our onsite adult day program. For more information or to schedule a tour, phone: 775-829-4700.
- **Grandparents raising grandchildren with special needs — Support Group**, 3700 Grant Dr., Reno. First Thursday monthly, with free childcare on site. For more information call Amanda Aitchison at: 775-737-8756.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

#### ⇒ Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:

- **Playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! Call Jessica Hartley at: 702-329-0345

#### ⇒ ISS Baby Steps—Las Vegas:

- **Inspired Discoveries Playgroup** welcomes children 0-3 years old in an inclusive setting. Please join in our fun adventure!" Call: 702-586-3100

#### ⇒ Kideology—Las Vegas:

#### ⇒ Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:

- **Parent meeting** for families of children (any age) with Prader Willi Syndrome, at NEIS. Contact Erica Magana (Bilingual) at 486-9265 or [emagana@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:emagana@adsd.nv.gov), or Shirley Farkas at: 702-486-9263 or [sfarkas@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:sfarkas@adsd.nv.gov)
- **NEIS BOO BASH!** Promises to be a Spooktacular fun day for Tricks & Treating, and fun activities. October 23, 10:00 AM.

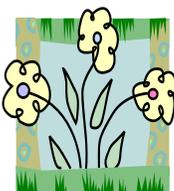
#### ⇒ Positively Kids—Las Vegas:

- **Annual Duck Fest**—Fun for the entire family, September 19th at Town Square. Starts at noon!!!!

#### ⇒ Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Las Vegas:

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, 6-8pm, at 6600 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 111
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups**. Contact Sarah Petrocelli at: 702-340-5521 or [spetrocelli@tmgnv.com](mailto:spetrocelli@tmgnv.com)
- **Mom's Planning Committee**—Meetings will be at TMG on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Email Martha at [mestrada@tmgnv.com](mailto:mestrada@tmgnv.com) or call: 702-595-5437 X 205.

For EI program contact information: [http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early\\_Intervention\\_Programs/](http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/)



Nevada's Central Directory website, filled with information and resources, includes a "Links" page with all kinds of useful websites and a Frequently Asked Questions page.  
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>

To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, please send your e-mail address to Dan Dinnell at [ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov)

