HOW TO MAKE A REFERRAL FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

...AND THEN WHAT?

YOUR FIRST CALL SHOULD BE TO:

Ventura County Early Start
Intake Representative

TRI-COUNTIES REGIONAL CENTER
at (805) 485-3177, ext. 0
or
1-800-664-3177
Early Start Program in Ventura County

Lead agency: Tri-Counties Regional Center

Collaborating lead agency (for solely low incidence): Ventura County SELPA

Mandated affiliated Ventura County agencies:

- Behavioral Health Department
- Public Health Department
- Human Services Agencies
- Drug and Alcohol Programs
LEGAL REASONS

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part “C”
  (34 Code of Federal Regulations)

- California Early Intervention Services Act
  (CA Govt. Code – Title 17)
(3) As used in paragraph (d)(1) of this section, *Primary referral sources* includes—

(i) Hospitals, including prenatal and postnatal care facilities;

(ii) Physicians;

(iii) Parents:

(iv) Day care programs;

(v) Local educational agencies;

(vi) Public health facilities;

(vii) Other social service agencies; and

(viii) Other health care providers
● Referrals must be made within two working days of identifying the child.
Early Start

ELIGIBILITY

Children Birth to 36 Months

DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

Children with Developmental Delays

Children Diagnosed with conditions that may cause Developmental Delay
(1) Infants and toddlers with a developmental delay in one or more of the following five areas:

- Cognitive
- physical including fine and gross motor, including vision and hearing
- Communication
- social or emotional
- adaptive

(2) Infants and toddlers with established risk conditions, who are infants and toddlers with conditions of known etiology or conditions with established harmful developmental consequences. Such as:

- Down Syndrome
- Cornelia de Lange
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)
- Spina Bifida
- Cerebral Palsy
EARLY START
REFERRAL FORM

Primary Referral Source

Name:__________________________________________
Agency:________________________________________
Telephone:______________________________________
Name of Infant:___________________________________
Date of Birth:____________________________________
Parents:__________________________________________
Street Address:___________________________________
City and Zip Code:________________________________
Telephone:______________________________________

My signature below indicates that the brochure, “COULD YOUR BABY BENEFIT FROM EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES?” was given to me and explained to me by the person whose name is above.

(Check one):
❑ I will call for a referral right away.
❑ I would like the person above to make the referral call for me. My signature authorizes the person to provide information about my child to Ventura County Early Start.
❑ I do not wish to make a referral now but I understand I may call at any time.

Signed:__________________________________________
(Parents)

Date:____________________________________________

(Your Record)

Name of person who gave you this brochure:

_______________________________________________
_______________________________________________
Agency:

_______________________________________________
Phone:

_______________________________________________
Date:

Decision made by me:
❑ Call for a referral right away.
❑ The person above will call for me.
❑ I do not wish to make a referral right now but I understand I may call at any time.

Whether or not you would like a referral, if you would like to talk with another parent of a child with special needs, call Rainbow Family Resource Center at 1-800-332-3679 or (805) 485-9643.

See Brochure

This program mandated by:
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – PL – 105-17.

VCES 10/97
Rainbow Connection
Family Resource Center

What is Rainbow Connection?
Rainbow Connection is a family resource center that serves children and adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs, their families, the professionals who work with them, and their communities. Rainbow staff are all family members of children or adults with special needs.

Services may include:

Families helping families
- Parent to Parent Matches
  Matching parents with similar concerns and interests
- Support Groups
  For families with children with special needs

Socializing
- Moms and Dads Night Out
  A social time for Moms and Dads
- Parties for adults and youth
- Social activities for consumers, families, teens, and children
- Sib Club
  For siblings of children with developmental disabilities
- Teddy Bear Brigade
  Social activities for children 2-11 years old with special needs
SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT FOR ALL VENTURA COUNTY

(805) 485-3177 ext. 0

or

1-(800) 664-3177
What happens after referral?

1. Family assigned Service Coordinator as contact person.

2. Home visit.

3. Assessment.

4. (Within 45 days) of referral) Eligibility determined and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting held.

5. Services begin as soon as possible.
Assessment will be conducted as follows:

- Review of pertinent health and medical records including hearing and vision - additional medical assessment may be requested if needed.

- An evaluation of levels of functioning in:
  - Self-Help
  - Vision, Hearing, and Motor
  - Cognitive
  - Social
  - Communication

- An assessment of unique needs of child, including identification of services.

- (At the direction of the family) an assessment of the family's resources, priorities, and concerns related to enhancing the development of the child.

**REMEMBER:**

It is **not** the responsibility of the referring party to determine eligibility.
TYPES OF SERVICES WHICH MAY BE PROVIDED:

**Child Services**
- Developmental Intervention
- Hearing and Vision Services
- Speech and Language Development
- Occupational or Physical Therapy
- Behavioral Consultation and Services
- Oral Motor Development
- Group Services
- Home-based Services
- Center-based Services

**Family Services**
- Parental Support and Counseling
- Respite care for parents or caregiver attending Early Start related services.
- Assistance with Referrals, Transportation, and Other Social Services
- Assistance with Entry into Appropriate Educational Programs at age 3
What about children who are not eligible?

- Prevention, Resource and Referral, Services (PRRS)
  - Facilitated by Rainbow
  - Periodic “checking” with families
  - Referrals and support
How is the early start program funded?

- Federal funding to schools and Regional Center
- Family income is not a factor
- Families that have insurance will be required to access it
- Legally, all potentially eligible children should be referred
- There are no charges to the family.
Raising a child with special needs is like dancing. It can be both exhausting and exhilarating. The families should choose the music and the dance and the professionals should teach them the steps they don’t know.