

CHILDREN AT RISK FOR OR WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Connecting Children and Their Families to Early Identification and Intervention Services

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



**CHILD CARE
PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

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CHILDREN AT RISK FOR OR WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
Connecting Children and Their Families to Early Identification and Intervention Services



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INTRODUCTION

The Child Care Planning Committee's Inclusion Work Group in partnership with 211 LA is pleased to offer this informational document and directory of resources for identifying and intervening early with children at risk for or with developmental disabilities or delays, or other special physical or mental health care needs. Many developmental issues are not discovered until children start school, which can be several years after early intervention services could have helped change a child's developmental trajectory and improve their chance of life success. Getting services for young children who may have special needs has been shown to positively impact their health, language and communication, cognitive development, and social/emotional development.

Please remember that this document does not serve as a diagnostic tool, but rather as a guide to help families and professionals that work with families to navigate the abundance of information and resources available to assist children with developmental delays or disabilities, or other special physical or mental health care needs.

The resources in this document are organized under broad categories, which can be easily accessed by clicking on the categories' respective links located on the table of contents page. Each resource contains a very brief summary with a direct link to the resource's website, where the visitor can access a wealth of information and resources, such as fact sheets, tools, including checklists, interactive screening tools, and advocacy materials.

We also strongly encourage you to contact 211 LA for more current and extensive information on any resource referenced in this document. 211 LA is a nonprofit organization that operates one of the largest and most effective resource lines in the nation. 211 LA provides access to comprehensive social services and disaster support for Los Angeles County residents. With one phone call, clients are directly screened and connected with the services they need for themselves or their children, including shelters, meals, autism and other developmental screenings, veterans' services, substance abuse programs, health care and mental health services, and access to jobs. 211 LA's recently launched website also provides a wealth of referrals to individuals on all of the above issues. 211 LA can be reached by either dialing 2-1-1 or visiting their website, which is located at: <https://www.211la.org/>.

This is not an exhaustive list of resources, and the reference to any organization and link in this document is not intended as an endorsement, rather as a means to familiarize professionals and families with the array of resources and facilitate access to resources and their services.

We hope that you will find this document helpful. If you have any comments or updated information related to this document, please contact:

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IDENTIFICATION

Do you have a concern about your child's development? If so, there are a number of tools and services that are available to help you assess your child's development and determine whether or not they qualify for services to help them with their special needs.

Brain Development, Child Development and Developmental Milestones

- **Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)** – “Learn the Signs. Act Early.”: A Web-based resource with downloadable charts and fact sheets on developmental milestones for children from birth to five and links to information on child development and positive parenting tips. Visit www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/ActEarly/default.htm for additional information.
- **Zero to Three:** National nonprofit multidisciplinary organization that supports the healthy development and well-being of infants, toddlers and their families by informing, educating, and supporting the work of professionals and parents. Navigational pathways provide information and resources on brain development, child development, child abuse and neglect, early mental health, health and nutrition, play, social-emotional development and more. Visit www.zerotothree.org and click on the links to “Professionals” or “Parents” to access their array of resources.

Tools for Early Identification and Intervention

- **Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)** – “Learn the Signs. Act Early.”: A Web-based resource with information on identifying the early signs of a delay in an infant's development, including autism. Additional posted resources include developmental milestone charts and fact sheets for children at ages three and seven months and at each year from one through five years old. Visit www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/ActEarly/default.htm for additional information.
- **211 LA County** – Dedicated to providing guidance, advocacy, and 24 hour seven days per week access to a range of human services to the people of Los Angeles County. If you are a parent with a child under the age of five and are concerned about his or her early childhood development, 211 also offers parents/caregivers an over the phone free evidence based developmental screening interview to assess how a child is doing for his/her age. 211 offers information and referrals but also offers care coordination to help families navigate local and regional resources and to get the services and support their child needs. For more information or to access their services, visit <https://www.211la.org/> or call 211.

INTERVENTION: EDUCATIONAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CHILD

Depending on your child's age, condition and the services needed, he/she may qualify to receive assistance from the following agencies: 1) Regional Centers; 2) School Districts; and/or 3) California Children's Services (CCS).

Regional Centers

If you have a concern regarding your child's physical, social, or intellectual development, you can contact your local Regional Center and ask to speak to an intake coordinator. Regional Centers are private, non-profit corporations that contract with the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to purchase or secure services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and delays. Regional Centers provide diagnosis and assessment of eligibility and help plan, access, coordinate, and monitor the services and supports that are needed because of a developmental disability or delay.

During the intake process, the Regional Center will ask you questions regarding your child's development. If your child is under three years old, you will be applying for Early Start Intervention services and the regional center will have 45 days from the date of contact to determine eligibility, conduct needs assessments, and hold a service planning meeting if your child is eligible for services. If your child is over three years old, you will be applying for Lanterman Act services. Here, the intake must be completed within 15 working days from when you initially called for help. At the intake, you will receive information about the nature and availability of services that the Regional Center provides. After speaking with you, the intake coordinator will decide whether or not to move forward with an eligibility assessment. The regional center generally has 120 days to complete the eligibility assessment and if the child is found eligible, the regional center must hold a service planning meeting within 60 days from the date of the eligibility determination. If the Regional Center decides that you are not eligible for Early Start or Lanterman Act services, you have the right to appeal this decision if you disagree with it.

There are 21 geographically located regional centers in California that provide services or help secure needed services from other private or public agencies. There are seven regional centers in Los Angeles County. To qualify for regional center services, you must be a resident of California, but you do not need to be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. Regional center services are generally free with a few, limited exceptions when a co-payment or fee for certain services may be required.

- **Early Start Intervention Services (Birth to 36 months):** Accessed through the Regional Centers, infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months may be eligible for early intervention services if they:
 - 1) Have a developmental delay: Effective January 1, 2015, any child 0 to 36 months with a 33% developmental delay in one or more developmental areas (cognitive, physical and motor, communication, social or emotional, or adaptive) is eligible for Early Start intervention services; OR
 - 2) Have an established risk condition: A child under 36 months has an "established risk condition" when the child has a condition of known etiology which has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay (e.g. Down syndrome, epilepsy, cerebral palsy), or when the child has a solely low incidence disability (vision, hearing, or orthopedic impairment); OR
 - 3) Are at risk for a delay in their development: Effective January 1, 2015, a child under 3 may qualify for Early Start services if she/he is at "high risk" of having a developmental disability due to his/her genetic, medical, developmental, or environmental history.

- Children with solely low incidence disabilities (i.e., hearing, vision, or severe orthopedic impairment, or any combination of those conditions) are generally served by the local school district instead of the regional center.

Multi-disciplinary teams consisting of coordinators, health care providers, early intervention specialists, therapists and parent resource specialists evaluate and assess infants and toddlers and provide appropriate early intervention services to eligible children.

- **Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP):** The IFSP outlines a plan of action establishing how the regional center will work with families of eligible infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months) at risk of or with developmental delays and addresses the child's needs, parents' concerns, and the resources needed to support the child's development. The IFSP must list all of the services and supports. The Early Start services that may be provided through an IFSP are: family training, counseling and home visits, special instruction, nursing services, speech and language services, audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision services, psychological services, transportation, social work services, nutrition services, assistive technology, durable medical equipment, and health and medical services. Regional center staff is required to communicate with the family in the family's native language and must provide a translated copy of the IFSP if requested. If the family's native language is a "threshold language," meaning that over 5% of the community in the area served speak the family's language, the regional center must provide the translated IFSP within 45 days. For other languages, the regional center must provide a translated copy of the IFSP within 60 days. An IFSP meeting must be held every six months to review the services. However, a parent may request an IFSP at any time and the Regional Center is required to fulfill the request within 30 days. For additional information, visit <http://www.dds.ca.gov/EarlyStart/home.cfm>.

For additional information visit the California Department of Developmental Services Web site at <http://www.dds.ca.gov> or contact your local Regional Center (see below for a listing of the Regional Centers located throughout Los Angeles County).

Children who are eligible for Early Start Intervention Services are re-assessed by the Regional Center before they turn three years old to determine if they meet the definition of having a developmental disability under the Lanterman Act (mentioned below) in order to continue receiving regional center services. In addition to regional center services, when a child turns 3 years old, they may also become eligible for special education services through their school district depending on whether the child meets the requirements for those services. The school district will conduct its own assessment of your child's need for special education services. For more information, please see the below section on School Districts. Please note that the eligibility requirements for Early Start, ongoing regional center services under the Lanterman Act, and special education services through the school district all differ from one another. Therefore, even if your child does not qualify for regional center services, check with your local school district because your child may nevertheless still be eligible for special education services from the school district.

- **Lanterman Act Services (Ages 3 and up):** Lanterman Act services accessed through the Regional Centers are available to any person age three or older who has a developmental disability, which includes: 1) intellectual disability (formerly known as mental retardation); 2) cerebral palsy; 3) epilepsy; 4) autism; and 5) disabling conditions that are closely related to intellectual disability or conditions that require treatment similar to that required for intellectual disability. The developmental disability must be expected to continue indefinitely, originate before the age of 18, and constitute a “substantial disability” (which means a major impairment of cognitive and/or social functioning). A substantial disability is demonstrated by showing impairments in at least three of the following areas: self-care; receptive and expressive language; learning; mobility; self-direction; capacity for independent living; and economic self-sufficiency.

*Please note, a developmental disability does not include conditions that are solely physical, learning disabling, or psychiatric in nature. For additional information on DDS services and supports for children and adults with developmental disabilities, visit www.dds.ca.gov.

- **Individual Program Plan (IPP):** Similar to the IFSP mentioned above, regional centers provide services under the IPP. If a child age three or older is determined to be eligible for services, the child will receive an IPP within 60 days of the eligibility determination that will identify, purchase, and/or secure individualized services and supports according to the child’s and family’s needs, goals, and preferences. The supports and services included in the IPP are determined based on the need of the individual receiving the services, effectiveness of services, and cost-effectiveness. As with IFSPs, regional center staff is required to communicate with the family in the family’s native language and must provide a translated copy of the IFSP if requested. If the family’s native language is a “threshold language,” meaning that over 5% of the community in the area served speak the family’s language, the regional center must provide the translated IFSP within 45 days. For other languages, the regional center must provide a translated copy of the IFSP within 60 days. The IPP meeting must be held every 3 years, but is typically done annually. A parent may request an IPP meeting any time, and one must be held within 30 days of the request.

Regional centers will rely on their purchase of service guidelines in assessing the type and amount of services and supports the regional center may fund. These guidelines vary among the regional centers. However, these guidelines are not the law and regional centers must grant exceptions under these policies if a consumer’s needs exceed what the guidelines generally provide. Regional centers are required to post their purchase of service guidelines on their websites. Please check the website of your regional center to review its purchase of services criteria..

○ **Regional Centers in Los Angeles County**

- 1) **Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center:** Serves eastern Los Angeles County including the communities of Alhambra and Whittier. For additional information, visit www.elarc.org or call (626) 299-4700.

- 2) **Frank Lanterman Regional Center:** Serves central Los Angeles County including Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena. For additional information, visit www.lanterman.org or call (213) 383-1300.

Age Range	Services
Birth - 36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information/Referrals • Assessment and Diagnosis • Early Start Program Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assistive technology ○ Audiology ○ Family training, counseling, and home visits ○ Medical services (for diagnosis and evaluation only) ○ Nursing services ○ Nutrition services ○ Occupational therapy and Physical therapy ○ Psychological services ○ Service coordination (case management) ○ Social work services ○ Speech and language services ○ Transportation and related costs ○ Durable medical equipment ○ Vision Services
3 - 22 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information/Referrals • Living Arrangements: Community Care Facilities (CCF) and Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) • Afterschool Program Services • Transition Assistance • Advocacy

- 3) **Harbor Regional Center:** Serves southern Los Angeles County including Bellflower, Harbor, Long Beach, and Torrance. For additional information visit, www.harborrc.com or call (310) 540-1711.
- 4) **North Los Angeles County Regional Center:** Serves northern Los Angeles County including San Fernando and Antelope Valleys. For additional information visit, www.nlacrc.org or call (818) 778-1900.
- 5) **San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center:** Serves eastern Los Angeles County including El Monte, Monrovia, Pomona, and Glendora. For additional information visit, www.sqprc.org or call (909) 620-7722.
- 6) **South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC):** Serves southern Los Angeles County including the communities of Compton and Gardena. For additional information, visit www.sclarc.org or call (213) 744-7000 or toll free 1-866-472-5272.
- 7) **Westside Regional Center:** Serves western Los Angeles County including the communities of Culver City, Inglewood, and Santa Monica. For additional information visit, www.westsiderc.org or call (310) 258-4000.

Please see the table below for a sample of the types of services offered by the regional centers based on age and eligibility. This is a non-exclusive list of services, and is provided to serve as an example.

****The regional centers provide services to individuals throughout their lifespans, further information about these services can be found at the Department of Developmental Services' website, <http://www.dds.ca.gov/>, or by contacting your local regional center listed on page 6 of this document.**

School Districts

As mentioned above, children under the age of 3 with or at risk of developmental delays may be eligible for Early Start Intervention services through the Regional Centers. Starting at the age of 3, children with developmental disabilities may be eligible for Lanterman Act services through the Regional Centers and for special education services through their school district. The school district serves typically serves this population from 3 to 21 years of age.

Qualifying for special education through your school district means that your child's education program, including what he/she learns and how he/she learns it, must be specially designed to meet his/her unique needs. This specialized education program must be provided to you for free as part of your child's public education. Your child may also qualify for related services, which are services that allow your child to benefit from his/her education plan in school. Examples of related services might include transportation to and from school, counseling, nursing, assistive technology, speech and language therapy, mental health services, reading assistance, and physical/occupational therapy.

- **Individual Education Program (IEP):** If you believe that your child has a developmental, mental, emotional, physical or learning disability that might make it difficult for him or her to be successful at school, you can request a formal assessment to determine if your child qualifies for special education and related services as mentioned above. The school must either provide an "assessment plan" for you to sign within 15 days of your request or provide written notice of their refusal to assess. By signing the assessment plan, the parent consents to an evaluation of their child in all areas of the suspected disability. The school must perform an evaluation and conduct a formal Individualized Education Program ("IEP") meeting within 60 days of receiving your signed assessment plan. At this meeting the results of the assessment/evaluations of your child will be discussed. If your child is eligible for special education, an IEP plan will be created that helps meet your child's unique needs at the school. The IEP plan is developed by a team including parents, teachers, other school staff, and the student. The IEP plan defines the present levels of performance, education goals, school placement, and services of a student identified as eligible for special education supports and services. The school district is responsible for ensuring that services are provided and the goals of the IEP are met. The IEP team meets at least annually to review the child's progress and the child must be re-evaluated at least every three years. Visit <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/needs/spced/iepguide/index.html> for additional information on the IEP process.

- **Special Education Local Planning Areas (SELPA):** Each school district belongs to a Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA), which is responsible for providing special education programs for children with low incidence disabilities and other special needs. Each SELPA has an infant program for children up to age three and provides special education for children from age three and up. The role of the SELPA is to make sure that special education services, programs, and resources are available to all eligible individuals, and to oversee the distribution of funds to school districts. Each SELPA has developed a plan for their region that explains how it will provide special education services. There are 16 SELPAs in Los Angeles County:
 - **ABC/Norwalk-La Mirada USD SELPA:** Serves ABC and Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School Districts. For additional information call (562) 868-0431 ext 2086, or visit www.nlmusd.k12.ca.us.
 - **Antelope Valley SELPA:** Serves Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District, Antelope Valley Union High School District, Eastside Union School District, Gorman School District, Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District, Keppel Union School District, Lancaster School District, Palmdale School District, Westside Union School District, and Wilsona School District. For additional information, call (661) 274-4136 or visit www.avspealed.com.
 - **Downey/Montebello SELPA*:** Serves Downey and Montebello Unified School Districts. For additional information call, (562) 461-8702.
 - **East San Gabriel Valley SELPA*:** Serves Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bassett, Bonita, Charter Oak, Claremont, Covina-Valley, Glendora, Pomona, Walnut Valley, and West Covina Unified School Districts. For additional information, call (626) 966-1679.
 - **Foothill SELPA:** Serves Burbank, Glendale and La Cañada Unified School Districts. For additional information, call (818) 246-5378 or visit www.foothillselpa.org.
 - **Long Beach Unified School District SELPA:** Serves Long Beach Unified School District. For additional information, call (562) 997-8051 or visit http://www.lbschools.net/Main_Offices/School_Support_Services/Special_Education/
 - **Los Angeles County Office of Education SELPA:** For additional information, call (562) 401-5737.
 - **Los Angeles Unified School District SELPA, Infant and Preschool Support Services:** Serves Los Angeles Unified School District. For additional information, call (213) 241-4713 or visit www.sped.lausd.net.
 - **Mid-Cities SELPA:** Serves Bellflower, Compton, Lynwood, and Paramount Unified School Districts. For additional information, call (562) 461-8702.
 - **Pasadena Unified School District SELPA:** Serves Pasadena Unified School District. For additional information, call (626) 396-3600 ext 88600.

- **Puente Hills SELPA:** Serves Hacienda La Puente and Rowland Unified School Districts. For additional information, call (626) 964-7458.
- **Santa Clarita SELPA*:** Serves Castaic Union, Newhall, Saugus Union, Sulphur Springs Union, and William S. Hart School Districts. For additional information, call (661) 294-5398 or visit www.scvselpa.org.
- **Southwest SELPA*:** Serves Centinela Valley Union High School District, El Segundo Unified, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach City, Inglewood Unified, Lawndale, Lennox, Manhattan Beach Unified, Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified, Redondo Beach Unified, Torrance Unified, and Wiseburn School Districts. For additional information, call (310) 944-3217 or the Family Resource Center at (310) 944-3217 ext 248.
- **Tri-City SELPA:** Serves Beverly Hills, Culver City and Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Districts. For additional information, call (310) 842-4220 ext 4310.
- **West San Gabriel Valley SELPA*:** Serves Alhambra City and High School, Arcadia Unified, Duarte Unified, El Monte City, El Monte Union High, Garvey, Monrovia Unified, Mount View, Rosemead, San Gabriel Unified, San Marino Unified, South Pasadena Unified, Temple City Unified, and Valle Lindo School Districts. For additional information, call (626) 943-3435 or visit www.wsgvselpa.org.
- **Whittier Area Cooperative SELPA:** East Whittier City, El Rancho Unified, Little Lake City, Los Nietos, South Whittier, Whittier City, and Whittier Union High School Districts. For additional information, call (562) 945-6431 or visit www.wacsep.org.

* Administered by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)

For a list of the types of services offered by the school districts based on an individual's age and eligibility, please see the below table:

Age Range	Services
Birth – 36 months	Typically children 0 through 2 are referred to the Regional Center for Early Start Services, unless the child has solely low incidence disability related to hearing, vision, or severe orthopedic impairment, or any combination of those conditions.
3 – 4.9 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special education preschool programs
4.9 – 17 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academics • Vocational training • Speech therapy • Occupational/Physical therapy • Transportation • Mobility training • Adaptive physical education • Counseling • Social skills training

Age Range	Services
18 – 21 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued public education Transportation

California Children’s Services (CCS)

Statewide program for California children under the age of 21 with physically disabling conditions which may or may not be dually served by Regional Centers or School Districts. Intellectual disabilities alone do not meet the CCS medical eligibility test. However, a child may get CCS services if the child also has a specific chronic physical disability. In practice, CCS requires that there be a separate diagnosis in order to qualify for CCS services. CCS’ position is that children are not eligible for services for related manifestations of intellectual disabilities when an intellectual disability is the only diagnosis. If your child is denied services and you believe the denial may be wrong, you should think about filing an appeal with CCS. CCS and Regional Centers often co-serve children, however eligibility is determined on a case by case basis. For more information about CCS please visit www.dhcs.ca.gov/Services/CCS/Pages/default.aspx or call 1-800-288-4584 for the LA County office.

For a list of the types of services offered by the CCS based on an individual’s age and eligibility, please see the below table.

Age Range	Services
0 – 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctor and hospital services Services in a rehabilitation center Prescription medications Medical supplies Durable medical equipment (braces, wheelchairs, etc.) Electronic or manual communication devices Medical transportation In-home nursing services Medical therapy program

Low Incidence Disabilities: Hearing, Vision and Orthopedic

Some examples of low incidence disabilities include blindness, visual impairment, deafness, and serious physical disability or impairment. School Districts are responsible for assisting children with low incidence disabilities, but parents should also be aware of the below agencies that assist with low incidence disabilities.

- **Braille Institute:** A nonprofit organization offering a wide array of free services designed to help people with vision loss lead enriched and fulfilling lives, including: Children’s Services, Children’s Literacy Services, Youth and Teen Services, Library Services, Braille Publishing, and more. For additional information, visit www.brailleinstitute.org or call 1-800-BRAILLE (1-800-272-4553).

- **California Children's Services (CCS) – Medical Therapy Program:** CCS arranges, directs and pays for medical care, equipment and rehabilitation when authorized. Services can be authorized for children and young adults under the age of 21 who have eligible medical conditions and whose families are unable to pay for all or part of their care. The **Medical Therapy Program** provides physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT) and medical therapy conference (MTC) services for children who have handicapping conditions, generally due to neurological or musculoskeletal disorders. For additional information, visit <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Pages/MTP.aspx> or call 1-800-288-4584 for the LA County office.
- **House Ear Institute:** The House Ear Institute's Children's Auditory Research and Evaluation (CARE) Center is devoted to improving the communication ability of infants and children with auditory disorders through research, clinical services and education of professionals and families. Clinical services include: outpatient infant screenings, diagnostic audiology, auditory rehabilitation, developmental psychological examination, speech/language evaluations and therapy, and cochlear implant services. For more information, visit www.houseclinic.com or call (213) 353-7005.
- **John Tracy Clinic:** Provides, worldwide and without charge, parent-centered services to young children from birth to five with a hearing loss offering families hope, guidance and encouragement. For more information, visit www.jtc.org or call (213) 748-5481.
- **Junior Blind of America:** Helps infants, children, teens and adults who are blind, visually impaired or multi-disabled achieve independence. Junior Blind of America's Child Development Programs provide a wide range of services for children (birth to six years) with visual impairments and other disabilities. A key component of these programs is helping families gain the knowledge to become successful advocates for their child's education and care. For additional information, visit www.juniorblind.org or call the Los Angeles campus at 1-800-352-2290 (toll free) or (323) 295-4555.
- **Learning Ally:** Formerly known as Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, Learning Ally is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping blind, visually impaired and dyslexic students succeed in education. They provide the world's largest collection of human-narrated audio textbooks and literature as well as solutions, support and community for parents, teachers and students. For more information, visit www.learningally.org or call 1-800-221-4792.
- **Long Beach Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center:** Provides services to young children from 18 months to six years old with speech and language disorders. Primary goals are: 1) early identification and treatment of language disorders; and 2) facilitating family involvement in the process. Services are free and include: diagnostic evaluations and speech and language therapy. For more information, visit www.lbscottishrite.org or call (562) 436-7787.
- **Los Angeles Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center:** Provides free speech, language and reading therapies to children from ages three through 18 who demonstrate a speech and/or language disorder. For more information, visit <http://www.la-sr.org/language-center> or call (323) 936-2153.

- **Pasadena Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center:** Provides services to young children from 18 months to six years old with speech and language disorders. Primary goals are: 1) early identification and treatment of language disorders; and 2) facilitating family involvement in the process. There are no geographical restrictions; however focus is on Pasadena and surrounding communities. Services are free and include: diagnostic evaluations and speech and language therapy. For more information, visit <http://pasadenascottishrite.org/childhood-language-center/> or call (626) 564-8947.
- **Pediatric Therapy Network:** A therapeutic and educational center that provides occupational, speech/language and physical therapy to children with special needs. The application of sensory integration theory is a cornerstone of the intervention provided for children with autism spectrum disorder, down syndrome, cerebral palsy and other developmental conditions. Services include physical, occupational, and speech-language therapies that enhance children's individual capabilities and foster their independence. Programs include: Camp Escapades, a three-week summer day camp for children ages four to 13; Leaps and Bounds, an early intervention program for children ages 18 months to three years who have been identified with a developmental delay; programs for youth and teens with disabilities; and more. For more information, visit www.pediatrictherapynetwork.org or call (310) 328-0276.
- **Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind (TLC):** TLC provides early intervention, pre-school, afterschool, and adult day and residential services for individuals who are developmentally disabled and visually impaired. For more information, visit www.tlc4blind.org or call (818) 708-1740.

Medical/Health

- **Medi-Cal Expansion for Children:** In January 2013, children and youth who qualified for the “Healthy Families” program, which was a low-cost public health insurance program for children and youth who were not income eligible for Medi-Cal, were transitioned over to Medi-Cal. All future children and youth who would have qualified under the “Healthy Families” program are now served under Medi-Cal’s Targeted Low Income Children’s Program.
- **Behavior Health Treatment (BHT) for Autism:** Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and other evidence-based BHT services are available through a) most private insurance plans (SB 946) as of July 2012, and b) Medi-Cal for children 0-21 years (EPSDT benefit) since September 2014. For more information, please visit: <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/F07101.pdf> and <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/BehavioralHealthTreatment.aspx>.
- **Bright Futures for Families:** Bright Futures for Families is a national initiative for families and communities to promote the health and well-being of children of all ages. Among the downloadable materials on this web site is the *Family Pocket Guide: Raising Healthy Infants, Children and Adolescents*, which contains information on child health and development with particular sections focused on child development issues by age from birth through 21. Another highlight is the *Health Care Visit Check List for All Children Including Children with Special Health Care Needs*. To access these and other materials, visit www.brightfuturesforfamilies.org.

- **California Childcare Health Program:** Dedicated to the health and safe of the early care and education field. Offers hundreds of user-friendly educational resources to help early care and education programs, trainers, Child Care Health Consultants, Child Care Health Advocates and the families they serve stay abreast of best practices. Materials include fact sheets, survival posters and training curricula, most available as free downloads accessible from their web site at www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org.
- **California Children's Services (CCS):** Arranges, directs and pays for medical care, equipment and rehabilitation when authorized. Services can be authorized for children and young adults under the age of 21 who have eligible medical conditions and whose families are unable to pay for all or part of their care. The **Medical Therapy Program** provides physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT) and medical therapy conference (MTC) services for children who have handicapping conditions, generally due to neurological or musculoskeletal disorders. CCS also provides in home nursing services in most cases. For additional information, visit www.dhcs.ca.gov/Services/CCS/Pages/default.aspx.
- **Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP):** A preventive health program serving California's low-income children and teens. Services include periodic health assessments, dental services, care coordination, and nutrition surveillance. Children with suspected problems are referred for diagnosis and treatment. For additional information visit www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/chdp/ or contact your local health department:
 - City of Long Beach at (562) 570-7980
 - City of Pasadena at (626) 744-6015
 - County of Los Angeles at (800) 993-2437
- **In Home Supportive Services (IHSS):** IHSS mainly provides personal care, paramedical, and protective supervision services for children. For more information, please contact your local IHSS at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/agedblinddisabled/PG1785.htm>

Mental Health and Therapy Services

- **Child and Family Guidance Center:** The Child and Family Guidance Center empowers children and families to achieve health and well-being through innovative mental health services and community programs. More information can be found by visiting their website at: www.childguidance.org.
- **Child Development Institute:** CDI provides families and other caregivers with guidance building consistent and responsive relationships and creating natural and healthy environments for children with a range of developmental challenges. CDI offers an array of programs and services to families and those that serve them, including mental health therapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, social skills groups, Relationship-based Behavioral Therapy, Early Learners, Teacher Support Services, and Parent Support Services. In addition, CDI has an **Assessment Clinic** to help parents by providing developmental assessments and diagnostic evaluations. Upon completion of an assessment, families receive treatment recommendations, education and support to navigate and make the most of the resources available in their community; and a **Feeding Clinic**, which offers a nurturing place for families to learn

effective feeding strategies in a therapeutic environment. For more information, visit www.childdevelopmentinstitute.org or call (818) 888-4559.

- **Children's Bureau:** Offers an array of child abuse prevention and treatment services aimed at strengthening families and communities throughout Southern California. Comprehensive programs focus on parents with children from birth through age 12 and include: in-home and center-based counseling; child and parent development; health; child and parent education groups; tutoring and reading programs; and community resource referrals. For more information, visit www.all4kids.org or call (213) 342-0100 or toll free at (888) ALL-4KIDS (255-4543).
- **Children's Institute, Inc.:** Helps children throughout Los Angeles County who have been affected by violence in their homes or communities through treatment, prevention, early care and education, and community services programs. For more information, visit www.childrensinstitute.org or call 213.385.5100; for South County, call (310) 783-4677.
- **County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health Children Youth and Family Services:** Provides mental health services to low-income children, youth, and families including assessments, medication, therapy, counseling, and consultation. Please call ACCESS (800) 854-7771, operators available 24/7, to find a provider near you.
- **For the Child:** Provides comprehensive child abuse treatment and family focused mental health care, counseling, and therapy to strengthen families and provide the tools of healing to children. Programs include: child abuse and neglect services to help children and families cope effectively with the physical, social and psychological aftermath of abuse; family-focused mental health care, a comprehensive mental health program for economically disadvantaged children and adolescents with serious emotional and behavioral problems; Kids' Place, which provides child care service and resource assistance at the Long Beach Courthouse to children whose parents have business with the courts; Parent Child Interaction Therapy to help young children with serious behavioral problems like aggression, defiance, temper tantrums, and oppositional behavior; and more. For more information, visit www.forthethechild.org or call (562) 422-8472.
- **Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic:** Provides mental health services to children, youth and families in Central and South Los Angeles. The Clinic's Early Intervention and Community Wellness Programs include: First Steps, which helps families whose infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months) are at risk of entering mental health or special education services in the future; Outpatient Treatment for children five and under with behavioral and emotional problems that qualify with a diagnosed mental health condition; Early Intervention Day Treatment, a clinic-based therapeutic environment for children ages 2½ to 5 years old who already have significant behavioral or emotional problems; and Preschool/Head Start Center-based Programs, which places mental health professionals into local preschool centers such as Head Starts, to facilitate the identification and treatment of children at risk for mental health problems to ensure their academic readiness and school success. For more information, visit www.lacgc.org or call (323) 373-2400.
- **Pacific Asian Counseling Services (PACS):** PACS mission is to enrich the lives of children and families through counseling and caring by providing culturally sensitive and language specific services with expertise in the immigrant Asian Pacific Islander

populations. Programs include: individual, couple, family and groups counseling; Youth Excelling for Success (Y.E.S.), which offers free activities for underserved Asian and Pacific Islander children, ages 5-18, at-risk for drop out or gang activity; Child-Safe (Children with Hope in a Loving, Secure, Adaptive Family Environment) Program provides comprehensive, culturally sensitive child abuse prevention and treatment services for children, youth and families; and individual counseling, case management and psychiatric services to those individuals who are CalWORKS participants to address their barriers to employment. For more information, visit www.pacsla.org or call (310) 337-1550.

- **Pacific Clinics:** Offers treatment, prevention and early intervention, program development and evaluation, research, training, and public education and advocacy, frequently in partnership with other social services organizations. For more information, please visit: www.pacificclinics.org.
- **Project ABC-About Building Connections for Young Children and Their Families:** A collaborative of Children's Institute, Inc., the University of Southern California - University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Project ABC is designed to create a system of care for young children ages birth to five who are in need of mental health services in the Los Angeles area. Mental health services are family-centered, strength-based, and culturally competent. For more information, visit www.projectabc-la.org or call (855) 436-1136.
- **Roybal Family Mental Health Center – Young Mothers and Babies Full Service Partnership Program:** Offers pregnant and parenting young women up to the age of 25 and their children from ages birth to five a variety of comprehensive services including: In-home Dyadic Interventions to assist young mothers develop secure attachments with their infants and toddlers; and 24 hour access to support and care. Serves communities located in Service Planning Area 7. For more information, call (323) 267-3400.
- **The Guidance Center:** Provides accessible, effective, and culturally relevant mental health services to children, teens, and families of the greater Long Beach and Harbor region in English and Spanish. Services include: individual, group and family therapy; early intervention services to children from ages birth to five; parenting education and training; and more. Visit www.tgclb.org or call (562) 595-1159.
- **The Help Group:** Serves children with special needs related to autism, Asperger's disorder, learning disabilities, ADHD, mental retardation, abuse and emotional problems. Operates six specialized day schools that offer pre-K through high school programs and offers a wide range of mental health and therapy services. For more information, visit www.thehelpgroup.org or call (877) 943-5747 or (818) 781-0360.
- **The Whole Child (formerly known as Intercommunity Child Guidance Center):** The Whole Child's mission is to give children of all ages the skills, support and security they need to build emotionally healthy lives and become caring responsible adults. The Whole Child is one of the oldest private nonprofit mental health contractors in Los Angeles County. The Whole Child provides comprehensive mental health services, parent enrichment, and housing services to over 8,000 children and their families

annually. The Whole Child focuses on children ages 0-18 years and their families in high-risk communities throughout Southeastern Los Angeles County. For more information, visit www.thewholechild.info or call (562) 692-0383.

- **Vista del Mar:** Provides comprehensive, family-centered social, educational and behavioral health services. For more information about Vista del Mar services offered through the three divisions listed below, visit www.vistadelmar.org, then click on the appropriate link at top of page or call (310) 836-1223.
 - **Family Services of Santa Monica:** Provides a broad range of mental health and social services to children and families throughout the Santa Monica Bay and West Los Angeles region. Services include Counseling & Psychotherapy, Teen Parenting Program, Elementary School Based Service Programs, Evidence Based Programs, Early Intervention Program, Reflective Parenting Program, Group Workshops, and Training Programs. For more information, please visit <http://www.vistadelmar.org/family-services-of-santa-monica/>, then click on the appropriate link at the top of the page or call (310) 451-9747.
 - **Home-SAFE (Services Aiding Family Equilibrium):** Provides counseling, parent education, mental health services, and family support services. Projects include: Family Project, a prevention and treatment program for families with young children and their siblings who are at-risk for child abuse and neglect; Teen Parent Project serves pregnant and parenting teens at local high schools by providing a combination of education, case management, and counseling; Early Head Start, which provides comprehensive child development services, medical services, mental health services, and family support services to low-income, pregnant women and families with children from birth to three years, during weekly home visits and bi-monthly parent-child socialization groups; and more.
 - **Reiss Davis Child Study Center:** Helps children, adolescents and families who are experiencing mild to severe emotional problems, behavior problems and/or learning disabilities. Program services include: diagnostic assessments and psychotherapy to children and adolescents, from preschool through young adulthood, who are experiencing behavior problems or emotional problems; the PsychoEducational Diagnostic Service Program, which offers comprehensive learning disabilities assessment, attention deficit evaluations, and psychological testing for children and adolescents; and the GRAND Parenting Program, a six week educational class for grandparents and other older relatives who need help and support in raising young family members.
- **Westside Children's Center (WCC):** WCC's Family Support Services assists families with young children to create healthy, nurturing home environments through a range of multi-disciplinary services that are designed to meet the unique needs of each family. A team of mental health, health and child development specialists engage parents as partners as they create case plans to address family concerns and issues. Services are delivered in the family's home in English or Spanish, at WCC's offices and in other community settings and include: assessments; individual and family counseling and therapy; parenting education classes and role modeling in the home; nursing consultations and presentations on health and safety issues; specialized child development services; case management; and referrals and linkages to other needed services. For more information, visit www.westsidechildrens.org or call (310) 397-4200.

Resource and Referral for Children Identified At-risk of Disabilities or Other Special Needs

Child Care and Development Programs

○ **Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Agencies:** Eight R&Rs located throughout Los Angeles County provide free referrals to licensed child care and development programs – family child care homes and child care and development centers – to families with children from birth through 12 years old. Some of the R&Rs also offer resources for families with children at risk for or with disabilities and other special needs. In addition, the R&Rs make available resources, including written materials, on a variety of topics, such as separation, toilet training, discipline, and more. For additional information visit or contact your local child care resource and referral agency:

- **Child Care Resource Center:** www.ccrcla.org; (818) 717-1000 or (661) 789-1200
- **Children’s Home Society of California:** www.chs-ca.org; (562) 256-7400
- **Connections for Children:** www.connectionsforchildren.org; (310) 452-3325
- **Crystal Stairs, Inc.:** www.crystalstairs.org; (323) 299-8998 or (888) 543-7427 (888-KIDS-247)
- **Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF):** www.maof.org; (323) 890-1555
- **Options:** www.optionscc.org; (626) 967-7848 or (562) 945-2635
- **Pathways:** www.pathwaysla.org; (213) 427-2700
- **Pomona Unified School District:** www.pusd.org; (909) 397-4740 ext. 6030 or (800) 822-5777

***For child care referrals in all areas, please call 1-888-922-4453.**

Other Resources

○ **AbilityFirst:** AbilityFirst’s children’s program provides creative, nurturing environments for boys and girls from ages five to 22 with disabilities to learn, develop key life skills, build confidence – and, of course, have fun. The eight community centers located throughout Southern California offer afterschool children’s programs. For more information, visit www.abilityfirst.org or contact your local community center as follows:

- **Claremont Center:** (818) 347-1440
- **East Los Angeles Center:** (323) 268-8178
- **Harry A. Mier Center:** (323) 753-3101

- **Lawrence L. Frank Center:** (818) 241-3888
- **Long Beach Center:** (562) 426-6161
- **The Paul Weston Center:** (818) 884-5112
- **California Map to Inclusive Child Care:** Funded by the California Department of Education, Child Development Division and administered by the WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies, committed to improving the delivery of quality child care services to children with disabilities and other special needs in inclusive settings. Hosts comprehensive listing of inclusive child care resources, Web site links, and California information. For additional information, visit www.CAInclusiveChildCare.org.
- **LACountyHelps!**: An easy-to-use Web site that confidentially can tell families whether they are able to get help from health and human services programs: CalWORKs, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP), Child Support Services, Community and Senior Services, Family Preservation Program, Food Stamps, General Relief, In-home Supportive Services (IHSS), Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and Healthy Kids, Supplemental Security Income, Women, Infants, and Children Services (WIC), and more. Visit www.LACountyHelps.org.

ADVOCACY

If your child has been identified as having a disability, developmental delay or special need and you need assistance with advocating on behalf of your child so he/she may obtain the services and educational opportunities that he/she is entitled to, the below advocacy resources may be useful.

Legal Services

- **Child Care Law Center (CCLC):** A legal resource on child care issues in California. CCLC has published documents that may be of interest to parents that can be found here: www.childcarelaw.org/what-we-do/equal-access/. One specific document on this issue is [Know the Law about the Americans with Disabilities Act and Child Care in California](#). For additional information, visit <http://www.childcarelaw.org>.
- **Disability Rights California (DRC):** DRC's mission is to advocate, educate, investigate and litigate to advance and protect the rights of Californians with disabilities. Some of their services include providing information on the rights of people with disabilities; providing technical assistance/training/publications and advocacy support; investigating complaints about serious physical and sexual abuse and neglect related deaths in institutions; providing parents' rights advocacy training for county patient rights advocates; and providing legal assistance for disability related issues .For more information about DRC please visit www.disabilityrightsca.org or call 800-776-5746.
 - The Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA) is a part of DRC. OCRA has been providing advocacy services to regional center consumers, their families and interested community members since 1999. OCRA provides legal services to consumers of all 21 regional centers throughout California. To contact your OCRA office call 1-800-390-7032.

- **Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC):** Based at Loyola Law School in downtown Los Angeles, the mission of the DRLC is to promote the rights of people with disabilities and the public interest in and awareness of those rights by providing legal and related services. Among its activities is the Education Advocacy Project, which represents families of students with disabilities in special education proceedings, including Individual Education Program (IEP) meeting, mediation due process hearings, and government complaints. The DRLC conducts monthly Education Advocacy Workshops to teach people about special education and an Education Advocacy Manual, a step-by-step guide to assist parents in advocating for their children. For more information and links to their materials, visit www.disabilityrightslegalcenter.org or call their central intake line directly at (213) 736-1479 (TTY (213) 736-8310).
- **Public Counsel:** A public interest law office providing free legal and social services to low-income people throughout Los Angeles County. The **Children's Rights Project (CRP)** provides free legal and advocacy services on behalf of children and youth. Among their areas of focus, assists families with children with disabilities and other special needs navigate the services to which they are entitled. For additional information, visit www.publiccounsel.org or call (213) 385-2977.
- **Special Needs Network (SNN):** SSN is a nonprofit grassroots organization responding to the crisis of autism and other developmental disabilities in underserved communities. SSN's mission is to raise public awareness of developmental disabilities and to impact public policy, while providing education and resources to families, children and adults. For additional information visit www.snnla.org or call 323-291-7100.
- **The Alliance for Children's Rights:** Provides direct legal services, community education and advocacy on behalf of children living in foster care, children with learning disabilities, children who need medical treatment or public benefits, and children in need of legal guardianship or adoption. For additional information visit www.kids-alliance.org or call (213) 368-6010.
- **United States Department of Justice:** The Civil Rights Division, Disability Rights Section protects the rights of persons with disabilities under Titles I, II, and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). The Disability Rights Section staffs the ADA Information Line - 800-514-0301 (Voice) or 800-514-0383 (TDD) - to answer general and technical questions about the ADA. Information of compliance requirements for child care and development centers in a frequently asked questions format is available on their Web site at www.ada.gov/childq&a.htm.

Prenatal, Parent and Family Supports

- **Family Resource Centers Network of California:** In collaboration with the local Regional Centers, Family Resource Centers provide parent-to-parent support to families with infants and toddlers at risk of or with developmental disabilities by offering these families information and referrals for services and supports. For additional information, visit www.frnca.org. Also see <http://lapublichealth.org/cms/publications.asp> for a link to the Directory of Parent-to-Parent Resource Centers for Children with Special Needs and Children with Special Health Care Needs in Los Angeles County.

- **Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):** The Los Angeles County Department of Health's Nurse Family Partnership Program is an evidence-based model program to help young women take better care of themselves and their babies. NFP uses specially trained public health nurses who begin follow-up of high-risk low income pregnant youth/women who are pregnant for the first time and who are living in poverty. All services are free, voluntary and families are followed and supported using an intensive home visiting schedule until the first-born child reaches the age of 2 years old. For more information visit publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch/nfp/nfp.htm or contact 213-639-6433 for the Nurse Family Partnership in Los Angeles County.
- **United Advocates for Children and Families (UACF):** UACF has been the "The Parent Voice for Children's Mental Health" with a mission to improve the quality of life for all children and youth with mental, emotional, and behavioral challenges and eliminate institutional discrimination and social stigma. UACF offers programs and services for parents with children with mental health challenges including statewide trainings, technical assistance, parent-to-parent support, and public policy advocacy. For more information, please visit: www.uacf4hope.org.
- **Welcome Baby:** Welcome Baby is a voluntary, universal home visitation program available to all pregnant women who deliver at California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) and live within a 5 mile radius. Welcome Baby is part of Best Start LA- a multi-year investment created by First 5 LA that aims to shape, strengthen and support Los Angeles County neighborhoods by building resources and providing access to activities that improve the wellbeing, development and care experienced by pregnant women, new parents and children age three and under. Women are enrolled in Welcome Baby prenatally or in-hospital, regardless of their risk factors or socio-economic status. Through one-on-one visits from nurses and parent coaches, Welcome Baby aims to enhance the health and wellbeing of mothers and their families. The program provides new parents with information and resources, prenatally and through the child's first nine months of age that will support them to help their child reach developmental milestones. For more information, please visit: www.mchaccess.org/welcome_baby.htm.

Tools and Resources

- **Families and Advocates Partnership for Education (FAPE):** Aims to improve the educational outcomes for children with disabilities by linking families, advocates, and self-advocates to information about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). To access information on IDEA, fact sheets, such as Understanding the Special Education Process (in English and Spanish), and more, visit www.fape.org.
- **Parent Advocacy Mentor Program (PAM):** This 8 week 25-hour intensive certification program through Special Needs Network is designed for parents, caregivers, and professionals who work with special needs children. Participants learn the skills necessary to become peer mentors for other parents and effective advocates for grassroots campaigns designed at improving access to quality health care and education, affordable housing, transportation, and jobs for individuals with disabilities and their families. Classes are FREE and held every other Saturday on a quarterly basis. Child care, breakfast and all materials are provided. To sign up for the next cycle of PAM, please email pam@specialneedsnetwork.org or call 213-389-7100.

- **Team of Advocates for Special Kids (T.A.S.K.):** T.A.S.K is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to enable individuals with disabilities reach their maximum potential by providing them, their families, and the professionals who serve them with training, support, information, resources and referrals, and by providing community awareness programs. T.A.S.K. serves families of children from birth to 26 years of age under IDEA and other systems mandated to provide services to individuals with disabilities. As a federally-funded Parent Training and Information Center, TASK provides advocacy information, workshops and information in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. To learn more about TASK and their services, visit www.taskca.org or call toll-free (866) 828-8275.
- **Training Individuals for Grassroots Education Reform (TIGER):** TIGER is a hands-on, self-advocacy program designed and taught by Learning Rights, to foster the tools of families in need, so that they may successfully advocate within the special education system. For more information, please visit: www.learningrights.org/#/tiger-training/cl68.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



**CHILD CARE
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