



## Supports for Children with Disabilities: Basics for Early Start Professionals & Child Care Providers

### Each Child has Unique Abilities...

Children with disabilities may have needs in the following areas:

- Fine motor - may have a difficult time picking up small toys or manipulating a toy, using crayons, drawing, coloring, cutting
- Gross motor - large motor movements, like walking, running, jumping, swinging
- Vision- visual processing, visual tracking, low-vision
- Auditory processing - difficultly comprehending verbal instructions
- Speech - articulation, expressive and/or receptive language, pragmatics

- Intellectual development - they may require single-step directions or repetition of directions, may need simplified directions
- Social/Emotional development - difficultly getting along with other children; will parallel play, but not engage with other kids; behavioral concerns
- Adaptive Behavior— performance of daily activities, home and community living skills
- Sensory - may have aversions to certain sounds, textures, foods, etc.



#### All children need:

- *A safe and socially comfortable environment*
- *The same opportunities*
- *Accommodations to support their uniqueness*
- *Peer interaction and support*
- *Your flexibility and adaptability*

\*The Americans with Disabilities Act defines disability as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.

\*The California Code of Regulations also includes children who are at-risk of having a developmental disability, per 14 CCR §95000.

### Agencies that can Help...

#### ☸ Regional Center—

Non-profit agencies contracted by the State of California to coordinate lifelong services/supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

#### ☸ School Districts—

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates special education and related services to children with disabilities ages 3-5 years.

#### ☸ Insurance—

Most private insurance providers, and Medi-Cal in some situations, will pay for speech, occupational, physical, behavioral and other types of developmental therapies.

#### ☸ QualityStart OC Inclusion Pathway—

Offers tools, tips, and resources to support better services for children with disabilities or developmental delays.  
[www.qualitystartoc.com](http://www.qualitystartoc.com)

# Services/Supports that Maximize a Child's Success...

## Funded by the Regional Center

- Convene an Individual Program Plan (IPP) meeting to discuss:
  - Behavior (ABA) Aide
  - Inclusion Facilitator
  - Personal Care Attendant
  - Day Care Funding (cost of providing day care to a child with disabilities exceeds typical costs and is a financial hardship for the parent)
  - Parent Training and Provider Consultations

## Funded by Special Education

- Convene an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to discuss:
  - Speech, Occupational, Physical, Behavioral and other therapies at school
  - Develop IEP goals to help the child generalize what they have learned across multiple settings
  - Transportation to day care
  - Parent Training
  - Assistive Technology

## Remember

- The child can make substantial progress and close any developmental gaps if they receive appropriate therapies and supports.
- These services/supports for the child mean that providers can get extra help to better support too.
- Collaboration is key—try to maintain an open dialogue with the parent to maximize the child's success.

## Provider Tips...

- Take the time to document your concerns on paper. If one of the children you serve are struggling, needing more support, or you are concerned that they are not meeting developmental milestones, document and share your concerns with the parent for appropriate follow-up. Your documentation may help a parent more easily access the related services/supports mentioned above.
- Parent must always provide consent to have their child evaluated/assessed by another agency. It is important to maintain open communication with the parent and encourage them to seek out outside resources, as necessary. See if they will allow you to be part of the process so you can benefit from the resources and specialized training the outside providers will offer. Consider utilizing consent forms to allow you to speak with these providers.
- You are an equally important member of the child's team—it is important that you don't give up!
- The ADA requires that day care homes and centers must make reasonable modifications, provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services (provided there is no undue burden), and centers cannot exclude children with disabilities unless their presence would pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others or require a fundamental alteration of the program.



## Resources...

Orange County Department of Education— [www.ocde.us](http://www.ocde.us)

Children's Home Society—[www.chs-ca.org](http://www.chs-ca.org)

Quality Start OC—<http://qualitystartoc.org/Pages/about.aspx>

WestEd California Early Intervention Technical Assistance Network - [www.wested.org](http://www.wested.org)

Child Care Law Center—<http://childcarelaw.org>

Help Me Grow Orange County (Child Care Tool Kit) — [www.helpmegrowoc.org](http://www.helpmegrowoc.org)

FSN Developmental Screenings—[www.familysupportnetworkca.org](http://www.familysupportnetworkca.org)

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