

What Parents Are Saying—

“Our family resource center helped us adjust to our unexpected circumstances and has provided us with many resources for our daughter and for our family. Everyone in the community benefits when special needs families are cared for.”

—Steve and Lynn R., Santa Barbara

“Family Resource Network staff are more than willing to help and very understanding. They’ll even call and ask how my son is doing and how I’m doing.”

—Stacey R., Oakland

“Remembering back when my own son was newly diagnosed with having a disability, I was overwhelmed by all that I needed to learn. The professionals were all helpful and caring, but it was the parents of children with special needs at the Family Resource Center that helped me with the healing I needed at that time.”

—Nina P., San Diego

Family Resource Centers and Networks— Helping California’s Families

Family resource centers and networks provide parent-to-parent support to families of infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months who are at risk of developmental disabilities and those who have established disabilities.

Family resource centers and networks are located in many communities across California. To find the family resource center or network nearest to you, call 800/515-BABY

or visit www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart
e-mail: earlystart@dds.ca.gov



FAMILY
RESOURCE
CENTERS &
NETWORKS

*Serving Families
Who Have Children
with Special Needs*

Family

RESOURCE CENTERS & NETWORKS

A VITAL COMPONENT OF CALIFORNIA EARLY START FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES



As parents of a child with special needs, we know you need support. We know because we've been there. Parent-to-parent support, through statewide family resource centers, is one of the most important components of the California Early Start service system.

Family resource centers and networks are recognized as providing support in a family-friendly atmosphere. Because every center is staffed by parents who have children with special needs, family resource centers and networks understand the emotional needs of families and provide an understanding of the local service system.

Family resource centers and networks provide information and support to assist families in their interactions with different agencies providing services. They promote positive relationships and model communication and problem-solving skills.



In California, family resource centers and networks offer parent-to-parent support and help parents, families, and children locate and use needed services. Family resource centers and networks vary to meet the needs in each area of the state. Family

resource center staff and volunteers offer support services and resources in many languages.

Many family resource centers and networks offer newsletters, resource libraries, websites, parent-to-parent groups, and sibling support groups. Telephone “warmlines” or “babylines” for support. Information and referral for parents and professionals is also offered.



Family RESOURCE CENTERS & NETWORKS

May Provide:

- ♥ Parent-to-Parent and Family Support
- ♥ Training, Peer Counseling, and Home Visits
- ♥ Information and Referral
- ♥ Public Awareness
- ♥ Parent Education
- ♥ Support Services in Many Languages
- ♥ Parent-to-Parent and Sibling Support Groups
- ♥ Transition Assistance
- ♥ Support Services in Urban and Rural Communities

Promote:

- ♥ Diversity
- ♥ Parent-Professional Collaboration
- ♥ Community Outreach Activities
- ♥ Agency Coordination

