



# EARLY START



*Are your children on track?*



**Babies learn and grow at their own rate. Some babies need a little extra support to meet their developmental milestones. It is important to get help as early as possible if you or your baby's doctor has any concerns about his or her development.**

### **What is Early Intervention?**

The Early Start Program at Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC) provides supports and services for infants and toddlers, birth to 36 months, and their families. This is called Early Intervention. Research shows that Early Intervention can improve developmental and educational outcomes.

### **What Services May Be Included?**

Depending upon your child's individual needs, services provided might include therapy to help his/her language develop, improve movement, feeding skills, behavior issues and/or learning.

- Developmental evaluation, assessment, and monitoring
- Referral to community resources, including health services
- Infant stimulation/education developmental program
- Physical, occupational, and/or speech/language therapy\*
- Family training/education
- Behavior intervention services\*
- Service coordination
- Audiology services\*
- Assist with connecting to preschool resources and programs for children 3+ years
- Financial assistance for therapy deductible, co-insurance, and copayment

\*If your child qualifies for therapies and these services are not covered by your insurance or other community resources.

### **Who is Eligible?**

- Children with medical conditions or factors that put them at risk for developmental delays.
- Children with a developmental delay in one or more of the following areas: physical, communication, cognition, social emotional, and/or self-help skills.

### **Who can Refer?**

The child's parent, relative, doctor, or anyone concerned about the child's development can make a referral. RCOC's Intake Department will contact the parent.

### **What will Happen?**

The process begins when contact is made with RCOC. Our Early Intervention team will work closely with your family to identify developmental concerns. If applicable, your child may have a formal assessment. Early Start eligibility will be determined within 45 days.

### **Is There a Cost?**

There is no cost to families for the assessment process to determine eligibility. For any child found eligible for Early Start, services are supported through state and federal funding and medical insurance coordination. RCOC can assist with insurance costs when necessary. Once eligibility is determined, an annual fee may be required, depending on family income.

### **How do I get Started?**

To begin, you may do any of the following:

- Call Intake Department at **(714) 796-5354**
- Email [intake@rcocdd.com](mailto:intake@rcocdd.com)
- Visit [www.rcocdd.com/intake/](http://www.rcocdd.com/intake/) to complete the online application, or
- Scan the QR code to go directly to the RCOC website

