

# Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

## July ICC Day 2

July 18, 2025



# Housekeeping



Interpretación en español: haga clic en el globo blanco en la parte inferior de la pantalla con la etiqueta "Interpretation." Luego haga clic en "Spanish" y seleccione "Mute original audio."



ASL interpreters have been "Spotlighted" and live closed captioning is active

- Raise hand, say first name and **speak slowly**



This meeting is being recorded



Materials are available at: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start/state-icc-on-early-intervention-overview/>



Submit written comment via email to: [earlystart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:earlystart@dds.ca.gov)

# Housekeeping – Interpretation Services

- **ASL INTERPRETERS**

ASL interpreters will be spotlighted during the meeting.

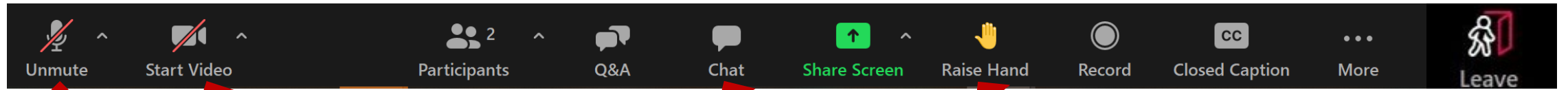
- **WHEN SPEAKING**

Please introduce yourself by stating your full name and who you represent.

- **PLEASE SPEAK SLOWLY**

To support our interpreters with accurately interpreting the information discussed during the meeting, please speak slowly.

# Zoom Tips



Unmute mic only when it's your turn to speak



Turn your webcam on/off

Chat is available for all attendees

During public comment, please use the raise hand feature

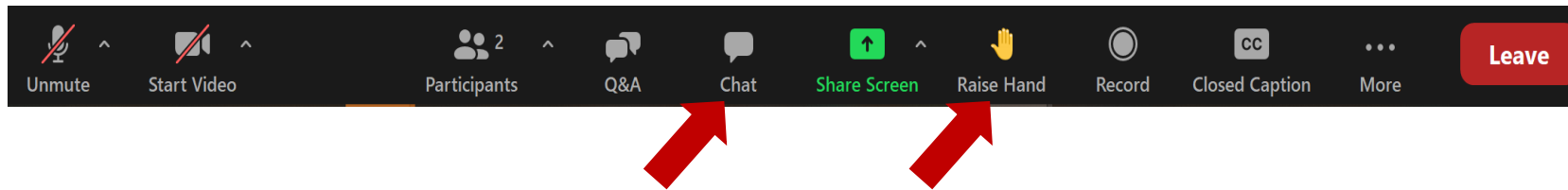
Leave the webinar at the end of the meeting



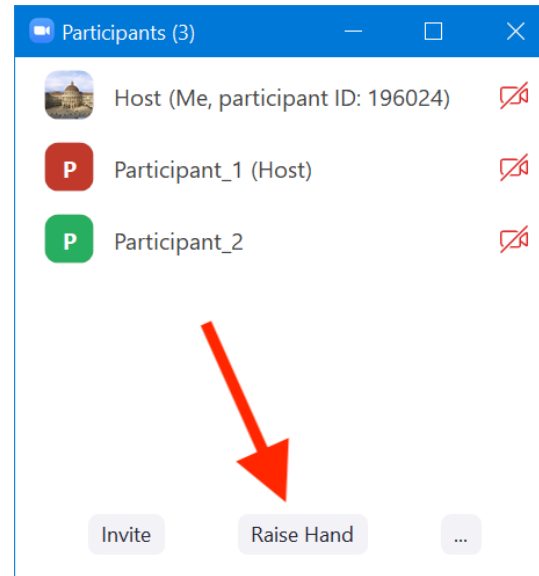
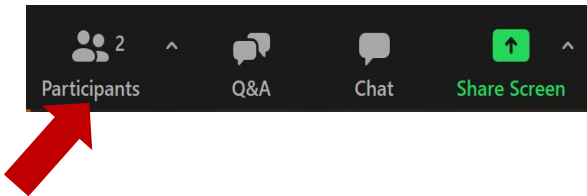
- Features will vary based on the version of Zoom and device you are using
- Some Zoom features are not available for telephone-only participants

# Providing Comments – Appointed Members

**Appointed Members:** Please use the “Chat” or “Raise Hand” to comment



You may need to click on “Participants” and a new window will open where you can “Raise Hand”



# Agenda

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Review Previous Day's Agenda
- III. Review ICC Mission and Purpose/Meeting Theme
- IV. Committee Reports
- V. Public Input
- VI. Presentation: Wildfire Response
- VII. Presentation: Child Development Institute
- VIII. Presentation: School of Imagination
- IX. Recap and Closing Remarks

# ICC Mission and Purpose

**To promote and enhance a coordinated family service system for infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years, who have, or are at risk for having a developmental delay or disability, and their families, by utilizing and encouraging a family-centered approach, family-professional partnerships, and interagency collaboration**



# Join the State Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention (ICC)

## What is the ICC?

- ❖ Community members working together to improve the early intervention system for children and families.

## What We Do:

- ❖ Promote and improve early intervention in California.

## Who Can Join?

- ❖ Parents, professionals, advocates, and anyone passionate about helping young children.



## Why Should You Join?

**Make a Difference**  
**Work Together**  
**Help Families**



Interested in learning about ICC membership? Please contact the Early Start team at: [earlystart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:earlystart@dds.ca.gov)

## Continuing Forward



- Improving State Systems Committee
- Communications Committee

Break  
Return at 9:45

# PUBLIC INPUT



# Public Input Guidelines

## ● **COMMENTS CAN BE IN WRITING OR SPOKEN**

All comments are published as part of the public record and provided to ICC members

## ● **EACH PERSON HAS 2 MINUTES TO COMMENT**

We want to make sure there's time to hear from everyone. Longer comments? Submit them in writing to ensure your full message is shared

## ● **COMMENTING ON BEHALF OF OTHERS**

One person is welcome to share input from others, please just be mindful of time, summarize key points and turn in any written statements

## ● **PLEASE BE SPECIFIC**

A clear statement-including specific suggestions for addressing any concerns you may have- is most helpful

## ● **WANT TO SHARE A POWERPOINT OR VIDEOS AS PART OF YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT?**

Email [EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov) at least 14 days in advance with any audio/visual needs

# Wildfire Response

Yvonne Gratianne,  
San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center (SGPRC)



San Gabriel/Pomona  
Regional Center

# SG/PRC RESPONSE TO THE EATON FIRE

Incident Command Structure,  
Internal/External Communications  
& Lessons Learned





San Gabriel/Pomona  
Regional Center

**Presenter:**

**Yvonne Gratianne**

**Communications & Public Engagement Officer**

# Incident Command Structure

- **Incident Commander:** Jesse Weller, Executive Director
- **Emergency/Safety Officer:** Suyan Carcedo, Emergency Management Coordinator
- **Information Officer:** Yvonne Gratianne, Communications/Public Engagement Officer
- **Liaison Officer:** Lucina Galarza, Deputy Executive Director
- **Finance/Administration:** Dara Mikesell, Chief Financial Officer
- **Staff Logistics:** Raquel Sandoval, Director, Human Resources
- **Case Management:** Daniela Santana, Director, Client Services, Rosa Chavez, Associate Director, Guadalupe Magallanes, Associate Director, Zorahida Preciado, Associate Director.
- **Resources to Families:** Susana Barrera, Division Manager, Monica Romero, Division Manager, Cesar Cruz, Division Manager




# Community Engagement

- **Case Management Staff immediately started their outreach to families on the day of fire and on-going as it spread.**
- **Case Management Staff tracked where families relocated (Extended Family, Hotels, Airbnb, Shelters, etc.)**
- **SG/PRC Communications & Public Engagement Team served as the “hub” for updates and alerts to community via electronic marketing system and provided updated resources via website and email.**
- **Executive Director called a Community Meeting via Zoom within 1 or 2 days.**
- **Emergency Management Coordinator was primarily responsible for daily monitoring of fire area impacts – used Everbridge system for urgent messaging and for check ins of our families.**



# Community Engagement *(continued)*

- Community Services Department did outreach to vendor community and provided critical assistance and support.
- Communications & Public Engagement Team mobilized an Emergency Drive at SG/PRC (held within a couple of days).
- Communications & Public Engagement Team with the assistance of many staff volunteers, staff family members, board members, and community members set up a working distribution center.



San Gabriel / Pomona  
Regional Center


**DONATIONS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE VICTIMS OF THE WILDFIRES IN LA COUNTY**

Southern California continues to face the devastating impacts of wildfires spreading across Los Angeles County, with four major blazes, including the Eaton wildfire, forcing mass evacuations of tens of thousands of residents. San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center is responding to this disaster in support of our individuals served and service provider community.

**ANNOUNCING AN EMERGENCY DRIVE AT SG/PRC**

San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center  
75 Rancho Camino Drive  
Pomona, CA 91766

**Saturday January 11, 2025  
from 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**



**Items being collected:**


- Cases of water
- Blankets, sleeping bags, jackets
- Diapers for Children and Adults
- Baby Wipes
- Hygiene Kits or Hygiene Supplies
- Gift cards to grocery stores
- Gift cards Walmart/Target
- Batteries, Flashlights, or emergency supplies
- Toys/comfort items for individuals with special needs

**MAKE A DONATION**

You can make a monetary donation to the Richard D. Davis Foundation

Mail in or drop off your donation  
Checks Payable to:  
Richard D. Davis Foundation  
Mailing Address:  
75 Rancho Camino Drive  
Pomona, CA 91766

Note: Please write Eaton Canyon Fire Relief and Recovery Fund in the memo portion.



For questions or inquiries, please reach out to the SGPRC Communications & Public Engagement Department at [communicationsdept@sgprc.org](mailto:communicationsdept@sgprc.org).





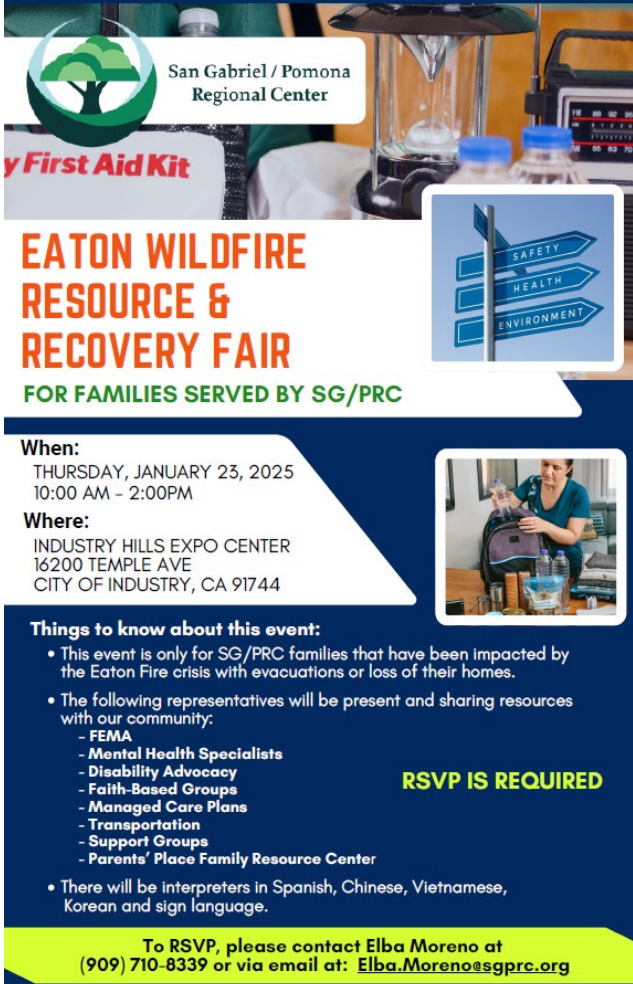
## Community Engagement *(continued)*

- **SG/PRC workforce assisted families with delivering essential items, volunteered during weekdays and weekends working the distribution center, helped case management staff to make contacts with families, assist with any paperwork needed, etc.**
- **Fiscal Department and Communications & Public Engagement Team worked with RDDF to set up a donation fund. This fund is to provide some monetary support to families, gift cards and address critical unmet needs.**
- **Several large monetary and gift card donations to directly support families were received from small businesses, health care partners, and community partners.**



# Community Engagement *(continued)*

- Executive Director sent multiple messages to community with words of comfort and new developments.
- SG/PRC Staff collaborated to organize a Resource & Recovery Event within a week of the fires. Partnered with several community partners & federal agencies
- Case management staff continue to do on-going outreach to families, identifying any unmet or critical needs, maintaining a centralized tracking system.
- Media coverage – KTLA, Univision, and DDS Social Media Platforms



The flyer features a top section with a photo of a first aid kit and a blender, with the text 'San Gabriel / Pomona Regional Center' and 'y First Aid Kit'. Below this is the event title 'EATON WILDFIRE RESOURCE & RECOVERY FAIR' in large orange and red letters, followed by 'FOR FAMILIES SERVED BY SG/PRC' in green. A signpost graphic points to 'SAFETY', 'HEALTH', and 'ENVIRONMENT'. The event details are listed in a white box: 'When: THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025 10:00 AM - 2:00PM' and 'Where: INDUSTRY HILLS EXPO CENTER 16200 TEMPLE AVE CITY OF INDUSTRY, CA 91744'. A photo of a woman packing a bag is shown in a small inset. The bottom section, on a dark blue background, lists 'Things to know about this event:' with bullet points about eligibility, community representatives (FEMA, Mental Health Specialists, Disability Advocacy, Faith-Based Groups, Managed Care Plans, Transportation, Support Groups, Parents' Place Family Resource Center), and interpreter services. A yellow box at the bottom contains the RSVP contact information: 'To RSVP, please contact Elba Moreno at (909) 710-8339 or via email at: [Elba.Moreno@sgprc.org](mailto:Elba.Moreno@sgprc.org)'. The text 'RSVP IS REQUIRED' is also present in yellow.

San Gabriel / Pomona Regional Center

y First Aid Kit

**EATON WILDFIRE RESOURCE & RECOVERY FAIR**

FOR FAMILIES SERVED BY SG/PRC

**When:**  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025  
10:00 AM - 2:00PM

**Where:**  
INDUSTRY HILLS EXPO CENTER  
16200 TEMPLE AVE  
CITY OF INDUSTRY, CA 91744

**Things to know about this event:**

- This event is only for SG/PRC families that have been impacted by the Eaton Fire crisis with evacuations or loss of their homes.
- The following representatives will be present and sharing resources with our community:
  - FEMA
  - Mental Health Specialists
  - Disability Advocacy
  - Faith-Based Groups
  - Managed Care Plans
  - Transportation
  - Support Groups
  - Parents' Place Family Resource Center
- There will be interpreters in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and sign language.

**RSVP IS REQUIRED**

To RSVP, please contact Elba Moreno at (909) 710-8339 or via email at: [Elba.Moreno@sgprc.org](mailto:Elba.Moreno@sgprc.org)



# Media Coverage



# Some lessons learned and still learning...



- Activate a response group in addition to the incident command structure – for immediate response to avoid delays in work that needs to be done late in the day, after hours or on weekends.
- Agree to have a “universal” tracking system - decide on what data is to be collected and ensure that it is clear on how to document such data on the tracking form. Include how often families wish to be contacted
- Multiple staff should be trained on how to send messages through Everbridge
- Formal debriefing – talk about what worked and what did not, and any lessons learned
- For Donation Drive – be specific about what is and what is NOT needed (itemized list of needed items)

LESSONS  
LEARNED



## Some lessons learned and still learning... *(continued)*



- Advocate with DDS about use of Coordinated Family Support for all families – this is a H & S issue—they can help with FEMA applications , applications for free AIRBNB etc.
- Do outreach to cities (county) within your catchment area to see what they do to find out who lives in their cities and who may need assistance in a disaster. Help advertise city / county enrollment for this type of notification.
- Provide cities with a list of facilities and day programs in their area
- Advocate for any reductions to daily reporting to DDS, if possible. In a disaster it is difficult to have a daily report with a specific deadline for reporting even with dedicated administrative positions repurposed to solely focus on data.

LESSONS  
LEARNED

# SG/PRC Impact from the Eaton Fire



- **170** Family Homes Lost
- **12** Residential Facilities Lost
- **350** Individuals & Families Served Evacuated
- Over **\$280,000** has been received in monetary donations or in gift cards through Eaton Fund
- Thousands of items donated such as essential hygiene items, diapers, ppe, sensory items, bedding, water, food, clothing, toys, comfort items, etc.



San Gabriel / Pomona  
Regional Center



## EATON CANYON FIRE RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUND

TO SUPPORT FAMILIES SERVED BY THE  
SAN GABRIEL/POMONA REGIONAL CENTER  
THAT HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE WILDFIRES.

Many families supported by  
San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center  
have encountered loss and impact  
because of the Eaton Wildfire.

Your donation can help make a difference for  
individuals with developmental disabilities  
and their families due to the widespread  
damage, being displaced, or even those  
who have been relocated temporarily.

Your generosity can bring hope and  
healing to our special needs community.



You can make a monetary donation  
to the Richard D. Davis Foundation

Donate with  
**venmo**

<https://account.venmo.com/u/RichardDDavisFoundation>

Or via check, payable to :  
Richard D. Davis Foundation

Mailing Address:

75 Rancho Camino Drive, Pomona, CA 91766



**Note:** Please write Eaton Canyon Fire Relief  
and Recovery Fund in the memo portion.

For other ways you can help, please contact the SG/PRC Communications  
& Public Engagement Team at [communicationsdept@sgprc.org](mailto:communicationsdept@sgprc.org).



# MEDIA



**"The greatness of a community  
is most accurately measured  
by the compassionate actions  
of its members."**

- Coretta Scott King





**San Gabriel/Pomona  
Regional Center**

**Yvonne Gratianne**  
**Communications & Public Engagement Officer**

**Direct Line: 909-710-8193**  
**Email: [ygratianne@sgprc.org](mailto:ygratianne@sgprc.org)**

# Child Development Institute

Dana Kalek, Child Development Institute (CDI)  
Elisa Hill, North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
(NLACRC)



CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

**Dana Kalek, EdD**  
**Director of Operations**



CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

- Non-profit serving the San Fernando Valley
- Our mission is to help all children reach their full potential by supporting the relationships and environments that shape early development.

# ELC: Free Play- Based Learning & Prevention

(Canoga Park & Reseda)

## Therapeutic Services

(Tarzana & Reseda Clinics  
& In-Home )





Learn Free, Museum Quality, Play and Learning Spaces





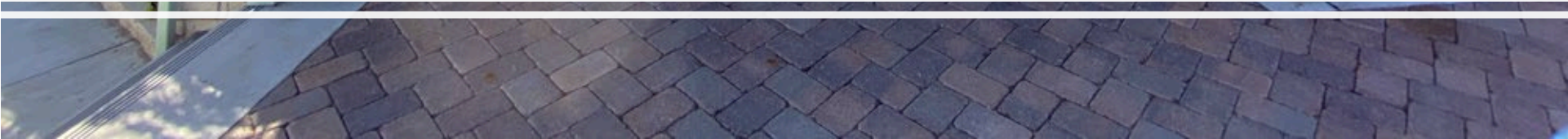
CDI Early Learning Center, Canoga Park







CDI Early Learning Center, Reseda





# Strengthening Families Framework

## The 5 Protective Factors

have been shown to increase family strengths, enhance child development, and reduce the risk of child abuse & neglect.

Parental Resilience



Social Connections

Concrete Support in Times of Need



Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social and Emotional Competence of Children





Volunteers





Free Enrichment Programs





Free Food,  
Diapers,  
Hygiene &  
Household  
Necessities  
Distributions





Free Developmental Screenings

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES...STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

## FREE PROMOTION PROGRAMS



Learning Lunches  
CALM Baby  
Healthy & Fit

## FREE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES



Children's Discovery  
Zones and Garden

Developmental  
Screenings

## EARLY INTERVENTION



Comprehensive  
Professional  
Services

NO COST

WELCOME  
BIENVENIDOS

## Resilient families

have the right information and resources to confidently support their child's development.

Safe, healthy and happy children have secure attachments and are ready to succeed in school and life.

A strong, healthy community views children as the future and invests in their healthy development.

THE ELC FAMILY  
EXPERIENCE

# Therapeutic Services

(Clinic, Home & Community)

\*Health insurance

\*Regional Center

\*School District

Mental Health Services

Occupational Therapy

Feeding Therapy

Speech Therapy

Physical Therapy

Child Development Services

Support Groups

# Community partnership and collaboration is vital to the work of CDI and the health and wellbeing of all children.



Child Development Institute thanks our community partners for their support!



California State University Northridge



Northridge Hospital Medical Center



Gelb Group



Nature Explore



Tierra Del Sol Foundation



Institute for Community Health Wellbeing



Child Care Resource Center



Providence Health & Services

# How to get involved

- Volunteers
- Donations (Monetary/In-Kind)
- ELC Gift Catalog
- Special Events
- Sponsorship Opportunities

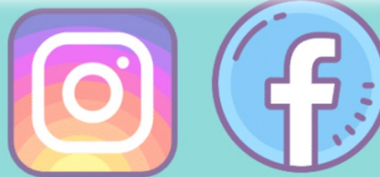




Kids  
Can't  
Wait

[www.cdikids.org](http://www.cdikids.org)

(818) 888-4



CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

# School of Imagination

Charlene Sigman, School of Imagination (SOI)

# Play. Learn. Grow.

Creating Natural Environments  
for Early Intervention



School of Imagination®

*Bringing Out the Extraordinary in Every Child*

**Presented by:**

Charlene Sigman, M.S., Ed CCC-SLP

Founder / Program Director - School of Imagination

July ICC - Day 2 | July 18, 2025

# Happy Talkers...SOI!

It started in 2001 as a daycare for 4 children with developmental delays called **Happy Talkers!**

Children kept coming and we grew to create **School of Imagination!** (SOI)

Today, SOI serves over 250 children weekly, including infants and toddlers in Early Intervention.

We believe children learn best through everyday play in nurturing and natural environments.

Our inclusive classrooms, playgrounds, and community events allow children to learn alongside their peers—developing communication, social, and functional skills where they happen naturally.

Through collaboration with families, clinicians, and educators, and with strong roots in the **Early Start Denver Model**, we ensure each child's goals are embedded into their daily routines.

*We're proud to partner with the Department of Developmental Services to bring these best practices to life for every child!*



# What Makes SOI Exceptional in Early Intervention

We give each child the earliest, strongest start for learning and life—through care that is personalized, evidence-based, and family-centered:

## 🧠 Individualized Learning Plans

- Goals and strategies tailored to each child's unique strengths.

## 📊 Evidence-Based Approach

- Services grounded in the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM).

## 📈 Aligned with CA State Standards

- Curriculum meets DRDP developmental benchmarks.

## 👨‍👩‍👧 Family Partnerships

- Ongoing training, communication, and collaboration.

## 👥 One Team, One Vision

- Clinicians and educators collaborate daily under one roof.



*We prepare every child to be independent, a lifelong learner, a good friend, and ready to thrive in kindergarten—and beyond.*

# Our Programs



# Inclusion – Why it Matters

Our inclusive preschool provides a dynamic learning environment, where children of all abilities develop essential life skills, build meaningful connections, and achieve their full potential – in academics and beyond.

In our welcoming classrooms, every child is encouraged to explore, learn and grow, supported by a dedicated team that nurtures their unique strengths.



“

*What lies at the heart of inclusion is a brighter vision of the future, and a necessary place to start is with young children. In an Inclusive preschool, children build friendships, celebrate each other's differences, and learn that everyone is a valued and equal member of their community.*

”

– Charlene Sigman

## ☀️ **Personalized Support**

- Small class sizes and individualized attention

## 💬 **Expert Access**

- Specialists support both children and families

## 🤝 **Social & Emotional Growth**

- Build friendships and solve problems together

## 🎯 **Leadership Opportunities**

- Learn as peer models and role models

## ❤️ **A Community That Cares**

- Every child is valued, nurtured, and included

# SOI's Natural Environment

## Inclusive & Integrated Spaces

- Children of all abilities learn and play together.
- Classrooms and playgrounds are shared with neurotypical peers (Step 1 Buddies).

## Learning in Daily Routines

- Skills are embedded in natural moments like snack, play, and transitions.
- Therapists and educators work side-by-side in shared spaces—not isolated rooms.

## Community Connection

- Family events, celebrations, and outings reflect real-world environments.
- Children can transition into inclusion classrooms when developmentally appropriate.



# Playground as a Natural Learning Space

Our inclusive playground isn't just for play—it's a living classroom where learning comes to life.

## ☀️ **Embedded Goals in Everyday Play**

- Children practice communication, turn-taking, motor planning, and social skills—naturally and joyfully.

## 🧑🧑 **Peer Modeling & Inclusion**

- IDP children join inclusion classes for at least 30 minutes a day, learning through shared routines and playful interactions.

## 🧠 **Therapy That Feels Like Fun**

- Clinicians support IFSP goals during real-world moments—on the swing, in the sandbox, or while waiting their turn.

## 🎯 **Motivating, Meaningful Progress**

- Our RCEB kiddos thrive in a setting that mirrors real life and maximizes engagement.



# Team Collaboration in Natural Environments

At SOI, our multidisciplinary team works together **in classrooms, on playgrounds, and throughout daily routines**—bringing services into the real moments where children learn best.

In these natural environments, therapists and educators support children's goals **side by side**, with peers present and learning woven into the day.



This close collaboration ensures every child's experience is **cohesive, meaningful, and individualized**.

“

*At SOI, kids practice these skills not only with adults but with their classmates, fostering friendships and confidence. Seeing children learn, play, and grow together is incredibly fulfilling. Success isn't just about goals met on paper—it's about the blossoming friendships between the children.*

”

– Christy Lemire, M.Ed., BCBA

# Real Impact in Natural Settings

In 2024, we **doubled our IDP program** and expanded therapy services—**adding dedicated parent training time** to deepen family partnerships.

From turn-taking on the playground to language practice during snack, our multidisciplinary team brings therapy goals into **real-life routines**.

Whether it's joining circle time or building friendships on the go, children are learning through experiences that are **authentic, joyful, and developmentally rich**.





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Dublin, CA, 94568

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[charlene@schoolofimagination.org](mailto:charlene@schoolofimagination.org)

Follow us on Social: @soi4kids

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#)

# Recap and Closing Remarks



# THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR MEETING



ICC Webpage: [State ICC on Early Intervention Overview](#)

DDS Early Start Mailbox: [earlystart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:earlystart@dds.ca.gov)

