

**Contact Information
For Early Start Program
(0 through 2 years)**

Regional Center of the East Bay

Regional centers are responsible for all children eligible for Early Start (except solely low incidence disabilities).
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 300
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 383-1200

Early Start Program

For infants and toddlers with solely low incidence disabilities (vision, hearing and severe orthopedic impairments, including any combination of these low incidence disabilities).
Pleasanton Unified School District
4665 Bernal Avenue
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925) 462-3325 x4810

**Contact Information for
Children (3 through 21 years)
Contact your district of residence**

Dublin Unified School District

7174 Larkdale Avenue
Dublin, CA 94568
(925) 828-2551 x8033

Livermore Joint Unified School District

685 East Jack London Boulevard
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 606-3225

Pleasanton Unified School District

4665 Bernal Avenue
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925) 426-4293

Other Support Contacts

**Family Resource Network of
Alameda County**

Providing resources & support to families of children with special needs.
(510) 547-7322 www.frnoakland.org/

Excerpts from . . .

WELCOME TO HOLLAND

By Emily Pearl Kingsley



I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability. It's like this: Having a baby is like dreaming of and planning a fabulous vacation trip — to Italy.

After months of eager anticipation, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"What do you mean Holland? I signed up for Italy!"

So now you must go out and buy new guidebooks and learn a whole new language. After you've been there for awhile, you begin to notice that Holland has windmills, tulips, and even Rembrandts.

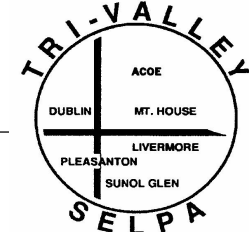
The loss of that dream is a very significant loss. However, if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things about Holland.



Tri-Valley SELPA

(Special Education Local Plan Area)

**Serving Tri-Valley
special education children
and their families.**



<http://trivalleyselfpa.org>



Early Start (Infant Program) (0 through 2 years)



With Early Start . . .

We can make a difference. A child with or at risk of developmental delay or disability can receive an "Early Start" in the State of California. Teams of service coordinators, healthcare providers, early intervention specialists, therapists, and parent resource specialists can evaluate and assess an infant or toddler and provide appropriate early intervention services to children eligible for California Early Start.

Who provides services?

Early intervention services are individually determined for each eligible infant or toddler and are provided, purchased or arranged by a regional center or local education agency.

- **Local education agencies are primarily responsible for infants and toddlers with solely low incidence disabilities** (vision, hearing and severe orthopedic impairments, including any combination of these low incidence disabilities).
- **Regional centers are responsible for all other children eligible for Early Start.**
- Family resource centers/networks provide parent-to-parent support, information, and referral for all families.

How do I access Early Start services?

The first step that parents can take is to discuss their concerns with their health care provider/doctor. You can also call the local regional center or school district to request an evaluation for the child. If the child has a visual impairment, hearing impairment, or severe orthopedic impairment, or any combination of these, contact the

school district for evaluation and early intervention services. After contacting the regional center or local education agency, a service coordinator will be assigned to help the child's parents through the eligibility determination process.

Parent-to-parent support and resource information is also available through Early Start Family Resource Centers. With parent consent, the service coordinator will schedule an appointment for an evaluation of the child's motor skills, communication development, learning skills, social interaction, and emotional development. If the child is eligible for Early Start services, early intervention professionals will work with the family to develop a plan that addresses the child's needs, parent's concerns and the resources needed to support the child's development.

Children (ages 3 through 21 Years)

Which children are served?

Children from 3 through age 21 with a disability may be eligible for special education services if the condition of disability interferes with success in the regular education program. The Federal government defines fourteen categories of disabilities that qualify students for special education. These include:

Mental Retardation (MR)
Emotional Disturbance (ED)
Deafness (DEAF)
Speech or Language Impairment (SLI)
Visual Impairment (VI)
Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
Hard of Hearing (HH)
Orthopedic Impairment (OI)
Autism (AUT)
Established Medical Disability (EMD)
Deaf-Blindness (DB)
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
Multiple Disability (MD)
Other Health Impairment (OHI)



Program Options

Participating districts of the Tri-Valley SELPA offer a **continuum of special education programs** that involve students from **ages three through 21** in the least restrictive environment that involves students.

Program service options include:

- Consultation to teachers and parents
- Home-Hospital services
- Services delivered in general classroom
- School based pull-out programs
- Self-contained classes on a general education site
- Special day classes on an isolated site.
- After considering least restrictive options, out-of-district placements

Placement Options

An **Individualized Educational Program (IEP)** team determines a student's placement in a special education program. At the IEP meeting, **the team first determines a student's eligibility for services based upon one of the fourteen disability categories**. Once a student's eligibility for services is established, learning goals and objectives are determined. Then, placement options are reviewed to determine the appropriate type of level of service. Students of any disability may be served in any placement option. However, students classified as speech impaired are most often enrolled in the Speech and Language program. Students who are determined to have a specific learning disability are often enrolled in the Resource Specialist Program (RSP).

Services provided by SELPA districts

Districts participating in the Tri-Valley SELPA provide many special education services and related services. Services include early identification and assessment, partial or all-day specialized instruction, and special related services. Related services may include transportation, speech and language therapy, psychological services, adaptive physical education, and health and counseling services as may be required to assist a child with disabilities to benefit from special education.

For additional information on eligibility, assessment, programs, or services, please contact the child's district of residence, special education department. See reverse side for district contact information.