

# Early Learning Institute's

# Childcare Support Project



**The Early Learning Institute** supports the childcare field in the areas of child development, early intervention, and professional development.

***Who is Served?*** This program offers free consultation to licensed Childcare Providers in both center settings and family childcare settings. It is available to both English and Spanish speaking providers throughout Sonoma County. Providers must be serving at least one child age 0-5. We are also available to speak to parents interested in additional support for their child in her/his preschool/childcare setting.

***What does the Program Do?*** We have two primary components of our program: **Inclusion Support** for children identified as having special needs (children with an IEP, receiving Early Start services (IFSP), etc.) so they can attend their community childcare or preschool program. **Developmental Referrals** from providers when they have a concern about a child's development.

### ***How does the Program do this?***

**Assessment:** We will observe the child in his/her childcare or preschool program, speak with teachers/ providers about the child, speak with the family, communicate with the child's Early Start or school district team (for a child with identified special needs), and use assessment tools when appropriate (when a child is **not** receiving services, but is showing signs of possible developmental needs). We will work with provider and family in setting goals related to the child's success in childcare and suggestions to meet those goals.

**Implementation:** The early intervention specialist will then help implement the plan. This may include, but is not limited to: site visits, meetings, and curriculum preparation. We are **not** able to serve as a classroom aide – the goal of implementation is to support the teacher or provider in adapting her program.

**Connection:** The early intervention specialist will connect the provider with the child's service team by explaining services, arranging visits by therapists, home teachers, special ed teachers, etc. The provider may also become part of the IFSP or IEP team (upon parent consent) and receive reimbursement for the cost of attending an IEP or IFSP if appropriate (up to \$50 for cost of a substitute).

### ***Parent Support***

All programs of the Early Learning Institute operate from the premise that Parents want what is best for their child and that Childcare Providers are also committed to providing the best possible care during their time with the child. We hope to connect families, teachers, and other professionals involved in working with a child to create consistent, nurturing childcare and preschool experiences. We are happy to speak to parents about our program and how it might fit their family's needs. No observation or evaluation will be done on any individual child without parent permission.

**For more information, please contact Early Learning Institute at 591-0170  
Or log on to: [earlylearninginstitute.com](http://earlylearninginstitute.com).**