



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

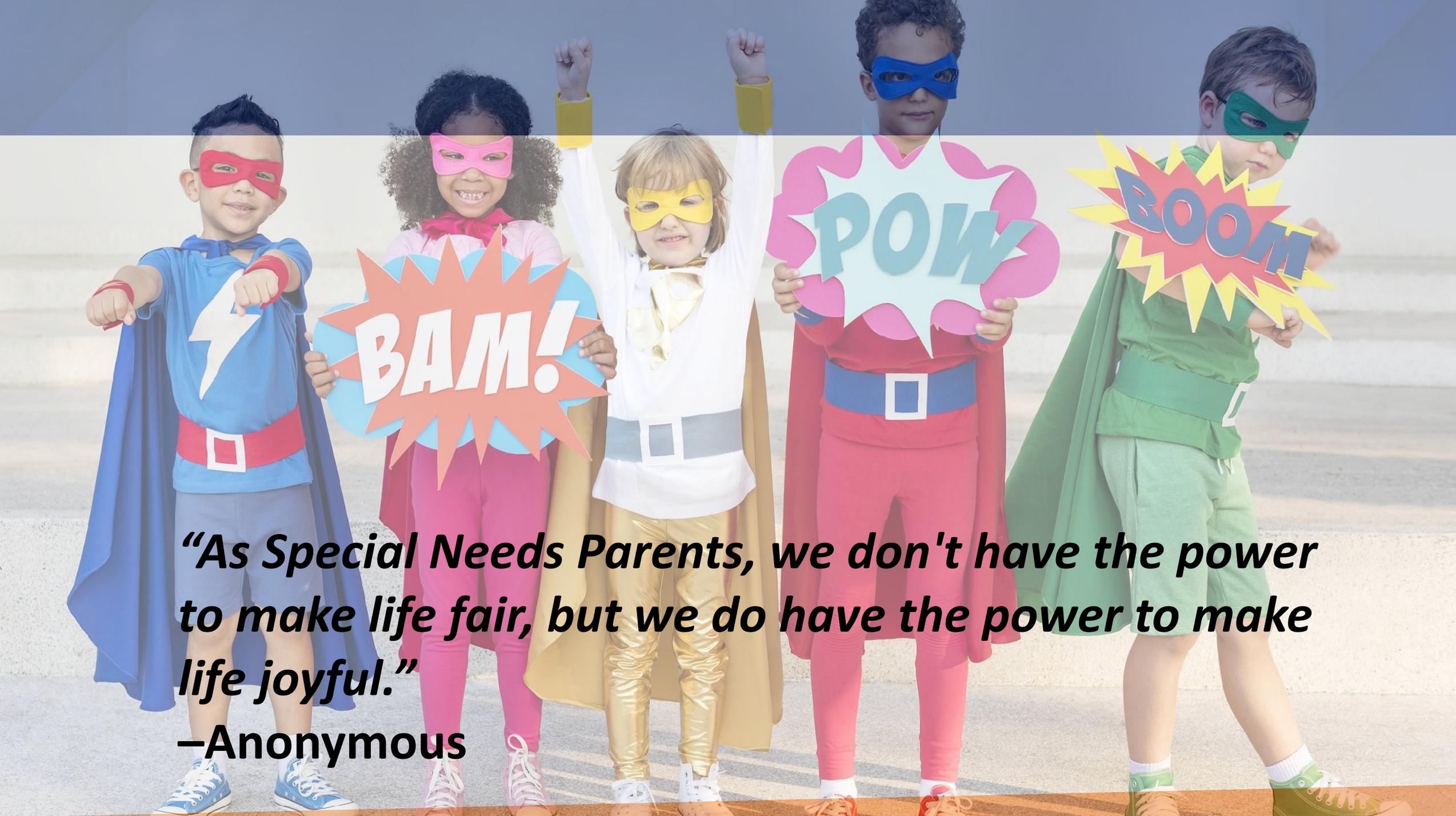


# Arizona Early Intervention Program

## March 7, 2024

# Meet Priest





***“As Special Needs Parents, we don't have the power to make life fair, but we do have the power to make life joyful.”***

**–Anonymous**

# Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- ❑ **Part A** - Outlines General Provisions of IDEA
- ❑ **Part B** - Special Education Services (Ages 3-21)
- ❑ **Part C** - Early Intervention (Birth-2)
- ❑ **Part D**- Parent Training, Information and Technical Assistance



# Part C in Arizona

## Lead Agency

Department of Economic Security (DES)

## Designated Program

Arizona Early Intervention Program, (AzEIP)



# Mission

Part C Early Intervention builds upon and provides empower and supports families capacity to and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities.



# Key Principles

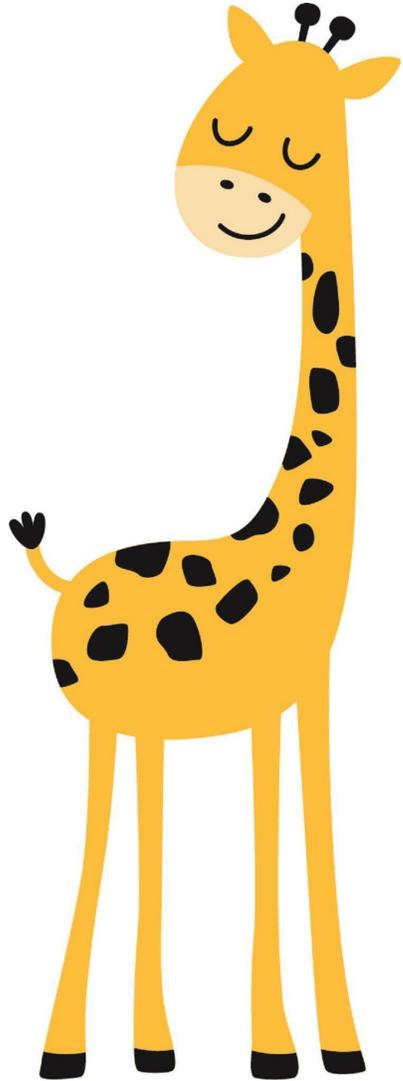
1. Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts.
1. All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development.
2. The primary role of a service provider in early intervention is to work with and support family members and caregivers in children's lives.
3. The early intervention process, from initial contacts through transition, must be dynamic and individualized to reflect the child's and family members' preferences, learning styles and cultural beliefs.
4. IFSP outcomes must be functional and based on children's and families' needs and family-identified priorities.
5. The family's priorities, needs and interests are addressed most appropriately by a primary provider who represents and receives team and community support.
6. Interventions with young children and family members must be based on explicit principles, validated practices, best available research, and relevant laws and regulations.



# Statewide Interagency System



# Current Landscape & Interagency Partners



## **Six State Interagency Agreement**

- Arizona Department of Education
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Arizona Care Cost Containment System
- Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind
- Arizona Department of Child Safety

## **10 Service Provider Agencies (SPA)**

- 23 Regions/ Up to 2 SPAS per Region
- Team Based Early Intervention Service Model

## **Additional Contracts & Agreements**

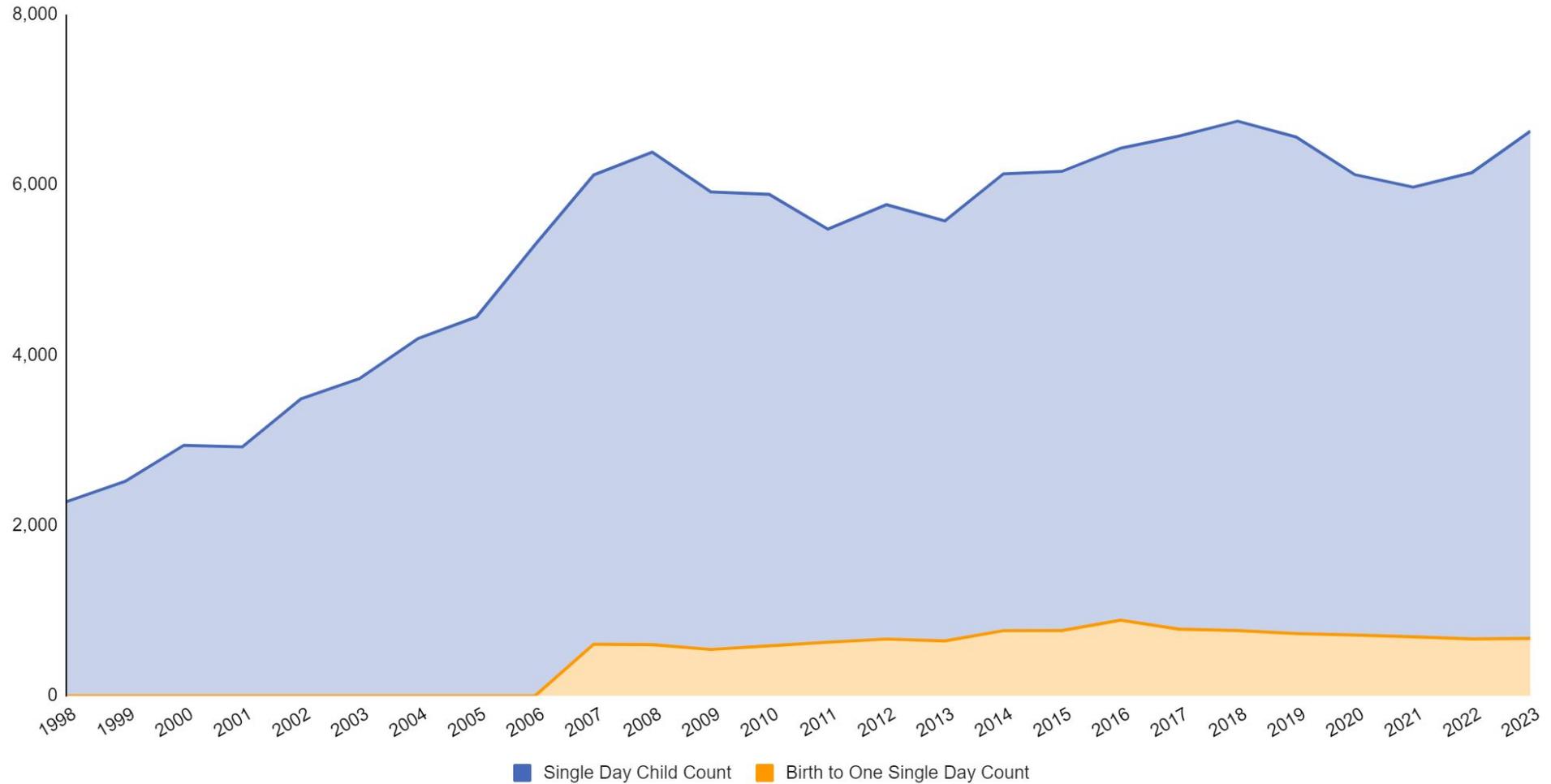
- Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind
- Raising Special Kids
- Memorandum of Understanding with Early Head Start

# Bridging Connections for Families

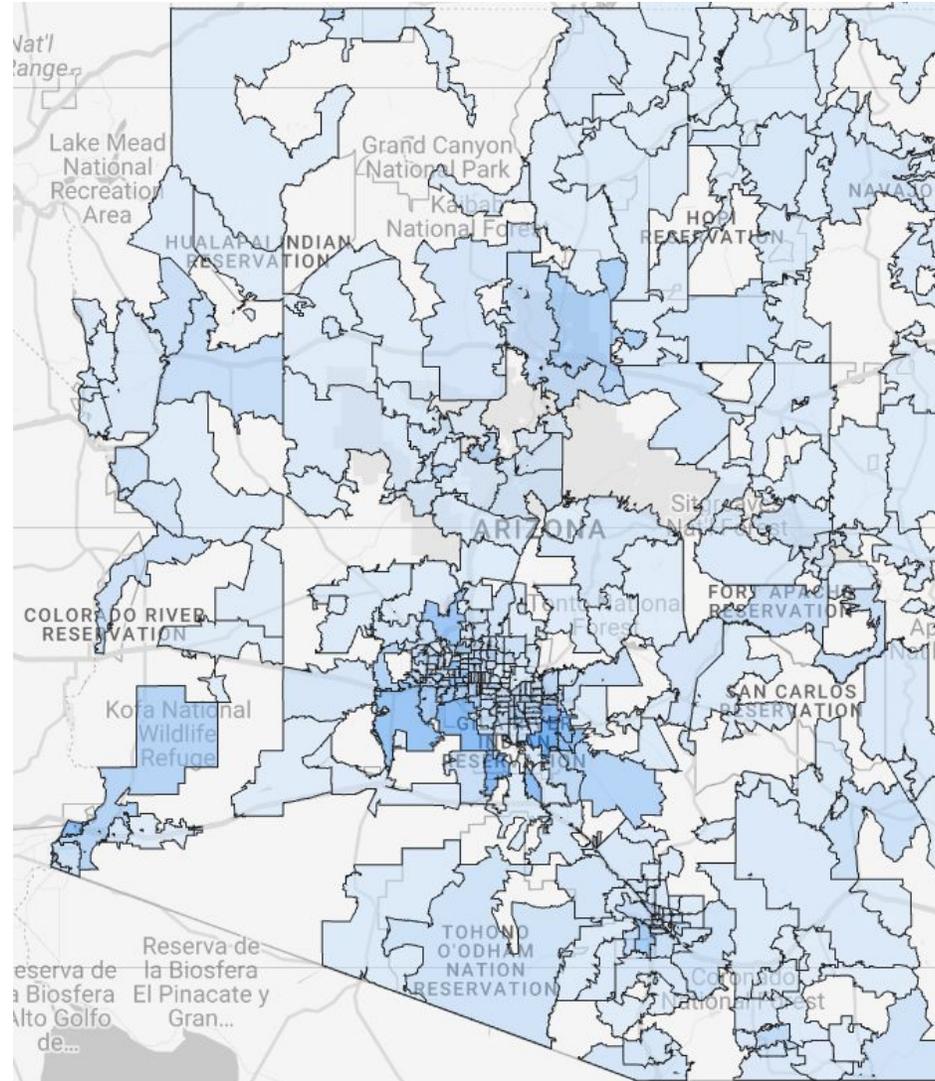
- ❑ Annual Stakeholders Meeting
- ❑ Arizona Department of Education (ADE)
- ❑ Arizona Department of Health including the Arizona Newborn Screening Program
- ❑ Arizona Early Childhood Professional Development Advisory Committee
- ❑ ASU Children's Equity Project (CEP)
- ❑ DES Refugee Team
- ❑ Developmental Task Force Screening
- ❑ Division of Child Care
- ❑ Division of Child Support Services
- ❑ Early Head Start/Head Start
- ❑ First Things First
- ❑ Hospitals including meeting with Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Personnel
- ❑ Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program
- ❑ Smooth Way Home

# Number Children Currently Served

AzEIP Annual Child Count



# AzEIP Representation Throughout State



# Family Engagement Initiatives



## *Current*

- ❑ Family Surveys
- ❑ Targeted Technical Assistance/Parent Resources
- ❑ Community Relations Liaison/Tribal Relations Liaison
- ❑ Linkages to Community Resources
- ❑ Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)/ Facebook Page
- ❑ Monthly Newsletters

# Family Engagement Initiatives

## *In Progress*

- ❑ Equity Initiatives
- ❑ Text Messaging Pilot
- ❑ Family Forums
- ❑ AzEIP Resource Library Updates
- ❑ Plain Notice Revisions
- ❑ Website Reform



# Evaluation and Eligibility

## Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP)

- 50% developmental delay in one or more developmental domains (Cognitive, Communication, Adaptive, Social-Emotional, and Motor)
- Established Condition (Medical records with a diagnosis)
- Informed Clinical Opinion

## Arizona Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB)

- Bilateral vision loss
- Unilateral or bilateral hearing loss

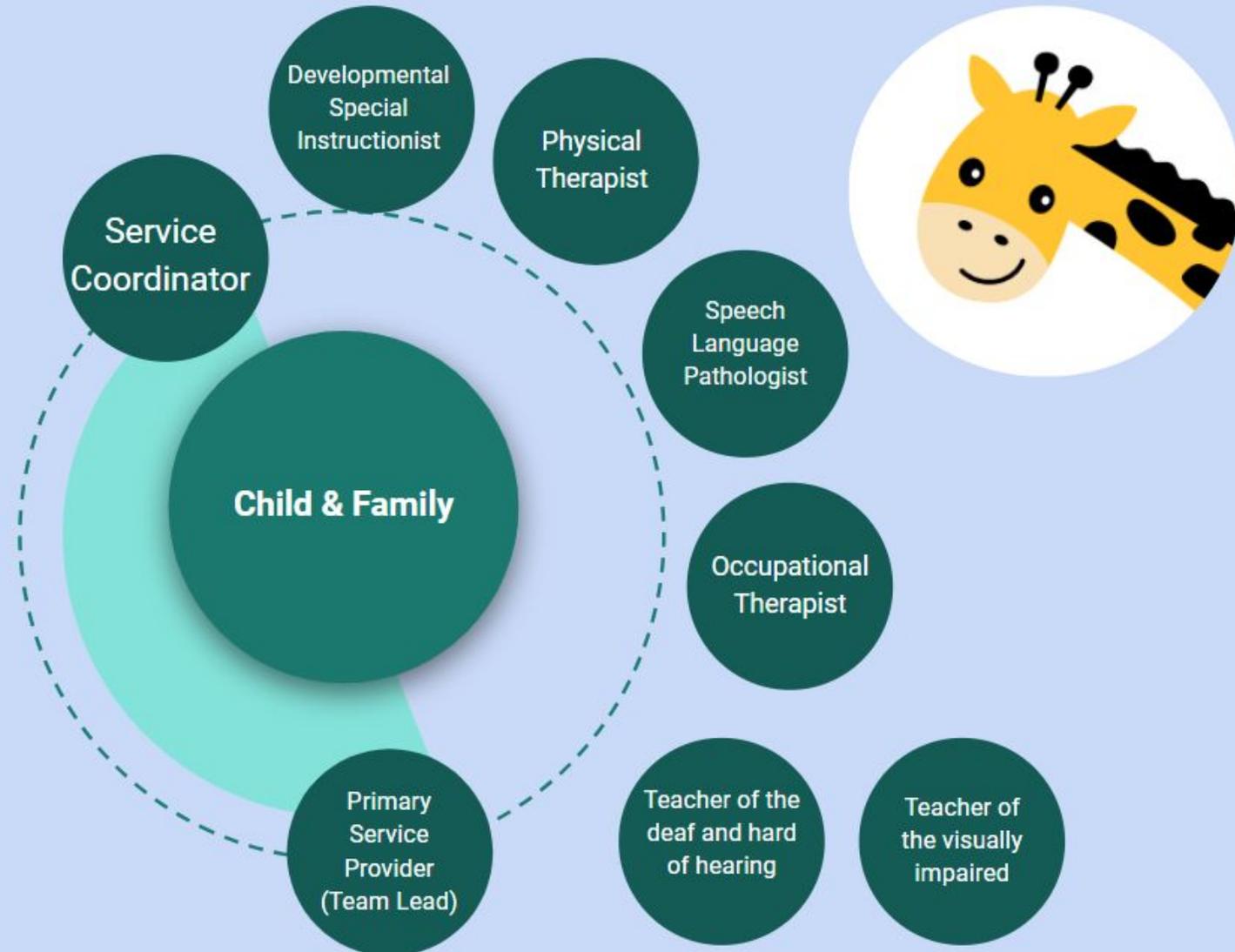
## Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

- Cerebral Palsy
- Epilepsy
- Autism Cognitive/Intellectual
- Down Syndrome
- At risk for any of the above



# Team Based Early Intervention

- All team members have general knowledge of infant/ toddler development
- The team determines the best fit for Team Lead (TL) based upon the families priorities
- Therapist may have specialized skills (feeding, sensory, mental health)
- If the TL needs support from another therapist, then coaching and / or joint visits occur



# Service Coordination

AzEIP  
Contracted  
Service Provider  
Agency

Division of  
Developmental  
Disabilities

All children and families receive a Service Coordinator who assists and enables an infant or toddler with a disability and the child's family to receive the services and rights required under IDEA Part C. Children eligible for AzEIP may also be eligible for DDD. DDD provides service coordination for children with AHCCCS or ALTCS insurance.

# A Family's Journey in AzEIP

## Initial Planning Process

- Service Coordination
- Initial Phone Call
- Initial Visit / Screening
- Records / Evaluation
- Eligibility Decision
- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

## Ongoing Services & Support

- Service Coordination
- IFSP 6 month review
- Home Visits
- Parent Coaching
- Quarterly Progress
- Assessments
- Community Resources

## Transition & Exit

- Service Coordination
- IFSP/ Transition Plan
- Transition Meetings
- ADE Developmental  
Preschool /  
Head Start /  
Private Preschool
- Local Resources

# Making a Referral

## Early Intervention

[AzEIP at a Glance](#)

[Apply for AzEIP Services](#)

[Find Service-Providing Agencies](#)

[Families](#) ▾

[Receiving AzEIP Services](#)

[Community Programs](#)

[Agencies](#) >

[Stakeholders & Advocates](#) >

[Resources](#)

[Policies and Procedures](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Join an Early Intervention Team!](#)

## Make a Referral

If you are concerned a child is not reaching appropriate milestone(s), refer the child to AzEIP.

[Refer a child online](#)

[Refer a child by email](#)

Phone: (888) 592-0140

Fax: (602) 200-9820

**Check the status of a referral:**

[AzEIP@azdes.gov](mailto:AzEIP@azdes.gov)  
(602) 532-9960

## Families



As children grow physically, they also develop in their knowledge, skills and behavior. When a child is not meeting the milestones for their age, the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) can help.

### Do you think your child may need help?

Contact AzEIP if you have concerns about how your child:

- Plays or interacts with others
- Learns
- Communicates
- Moves
- Sees
- Hears

[Apply for AzEIP](#)

### Receiving AzEIP Services

If your infant or toddler has already been accepted for early intervention services, you can explore resources AzEIP has available for you.

[Find more Services](#)

### Ineligible for AzEIP - What Now?

Not all children are eligible for AzEIP but there may be supports available through other programs.

[Find Community Programs](#)

## Early Intervention Records

You have the right to access your

## Resources

AzEIP's Central Directory of

## Glossary

AzEIP provides a list of words that

# Child Safety in AzEIP

- ❑ Building Family's Capacity
- ❑ Supporting the Child and Family
- ❑ Family Choice of Natural Environments
- ❑ Team Based Service Model
- ❑ Connecting families with community resources
- ❑ Collaborate with Department of Child Safety
- ❑ AzEIP Staff are Mandated Reporters



# Thank You!

QUESTIONS ?



# Contact Us

## **General AzEIP Inquiries**

AzEIP Main Phone: (602) 532-9960

Email: [azeip@azdes.gov](mailto:azeip@azdes.gov)

Website: <https://des.az.gov/azeip>

## **To make a referral**

AzEIP Central Referral Agency

Raising Special Kids (RSK)

Toll Free: (888) 592-0140

Email: [AzEIP.Info@raisingspecialkids.org](mailto:AzEIP.Info@raisingspecialkids.org)

Online: <https://des.az.gov/azeip>

Lisa Vallee / Community Relations Liaison  
[lvallee@azdes.gov](mailto:lvallee@azdes.gov) or (480) 915-5828

Jerrilene Antone Morton / Tribal Liaison  
[jantonemorton@azdes.gov](mailto:jantonemorton@azdes.gov) or (602) 859-0809

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azearlychildhoodICC

ICC email: [azicc@azdes.gov](mailto:azicc@azdes.gov)

