



## Special Education Early Childhood (SEEC): Infant Program

The Special Education Early Childhood Infant Program (SEEC Infant Program) is a special education program offered through San Diego City Schools. Programs and services are provided to 275 infants and toddlers determined eligible in accordance with California Early Start (CES), a federally mandated program (Part C of Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). CES services are provided collaboratively with the San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) and the Exceptional Family Resource Center (EFRC).

The goal of CES is to enhance a family's capacity to assist the growth and development of their child and work together with staff to facilitate the child's learning and ameliorate the effects of the disability over the child's lifetime.

**Referrals:** An individual may refer a child by calling the Alcott Infant Program, SDRC or EFRC. Children with only vision, hearing or orthopedic disabilities are served only by SDCS; other children are dually eligible for services by both SDCS and SDRC. When the district has reached its funded capacity of 275 children, children are referred to SDRC, who may fund an educational program for the child.

The Infant Program serves children from birth to three years old who meet eligibility criteria. Children with any type of disability may be eligible.

**Eligibility:** In order to determine if a child is eligible, information is gathered from a variety of sources, which include results of a play-based assessment conducted by staff, review of collateral medical records, parent interview, etc. If eligible, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed with the parent outlining the child's strengths and needs, current ability levels, as well as outcomes and services to address those needs.

**Programs/Services:** The appropriate mandated CES services are provided by the Infant Program in a variety of locations. Teachers make home visits to work with the child and parent and may be joined by a Speech/Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Nurse, Social Worker Consultant, Vision or Hearing Specialist when appropriate. Some children attend center-based classes, which are located at Alcott and Lindbergh-Schweitzer Schools. Additionally, staff provides service in community preschools, Early Head Start and childcare settings. In addition to bi-monthly parent support groups, parent/child participation groups and parent information groups are also offered in several locations within the district, in both English and Spanish.

**Transition:** As a child approaches age three, the parent and teacher work together to make plans for transitioning the child from the Infant Program. If the parent is interested, an evaluation is completed to determine if a child is eligible for special education service as a preschooler under Part B of IDEA. If eligible, an IEP meeting is held, goals are developed and appropriate preschool program and/or services are identified. If the child is not eligible, information about resources and services available in the community are shared with the family.

### SUMMARY

- ❖ The SEEC Infant Program office is located at Alcott School. Services are delivered at Alcott and Lindbergh-Schweitzer Schools, and other community locations.
- ❖ 275 infants/toddlers and their families are served.
- ❖ Services are typically provided jointly with San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) and EFRC.
- ❖ If a toddler program is appropriate, transportation is provided.
- ❖ Staff includes teachers, nurses, speech/language pathologists, a social worker with appropriate special education credentials and expertise.
- ❖ Bilingual Parent Facilitators (English and Spanish) are available to assist families.
- ❖ To refer a child to the infant program, call the Alcott Infant Program (858) 292-9641.

*Published with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation*

Contact Info: Special Education Early Childhood Infant Program, Alcott School: (858) 272-9641

Media inquiries: (619) 725-5578

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Serving more than 138,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with 200 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing over 18,800 employees.) SDCS is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging education in reading, writing and mathematics. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.