

WY Early Intervention

Laramie County's Child Development Center

The responsibility for providing services to eligible children in Laramie County is STRIDE Learning Center. One of the bigger Child Development Centers in Wyoming, STRIDE has two locations in Cheyenne. The Part B program is housed at a large facility on Parsley Blvd and the Part C program is on Yellowstone Road. There is also a classroom in Burns, Wyoming.

This comprehensive center for early intervention has early childhood special educators, speech language pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, case managers, and other health professionals. These services are

provided at no cost to parents of an eligible child.

Parents can participate in Child Find Activities to have their child screened for possible developmental delays if they suspect a problem or have a



referral by another source. This is also a free service. The screenings are conducted by trained professionals in accordance with state and federal regulations. Besides services

for the child, STRIDE also provides parenting classes and any other family needs that may be identified in an Individual Family Service Plan for Part C children.

STRIDE's Mission is to provide comprehensive, quality services for children with special needs and their families in a safe and compassionate environment so that they may achieve their fullest potential.

Interested parties should contact STRIDE at: 307-638-6100 for infants/toddlers or 307-632-2991 for ages 3-5. Or go to www.stridekids.com.

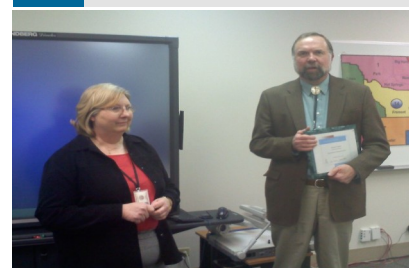
Read about another CDC next month!

Wyo Dept of Health,
Developmental Disabilities
Division,
Early Intervention and
Education Program



Special points of interest:

- > STRIDE Learning Center
- > Physicians and Parents
- > InfantSEE
- > Parent Resources
- > Contact Info



Mr. Mike Massie is honored for his service on the Early Intervention Council by Sara Mofield

Physicians and Parents Working Together Effectively

To best care for a child with a suspected disability, physicians and parents need to work together effectively. For the doctor, sitting down with the parents and expressing his/her concerns is a start. He/She should research the particular delay that is suspected and it may include genetic factors. This will include alleviating parental guilt if/when they blame

themselves. If a particular problem is diagnosed then treatment and rehabilitation options must be carefully explained.

Throughout pregnancy and after the birth the importance of early detection and intervention should be stressed. Each well-visit should be an opportunity to screen and maintain a high index of suspicion. Wyoming has many excellent resources and pro-

grams designed to help parents with a developmental delay as early as possible.

Parents can feel supported by the "one stop shop" as it pertains to the Child Development Centers where all services are based. Most hospitals work well with the CDCs in ensure the child is well taken care of with a promising outlook. Source: www.firstsigns.org

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InfantSEE: Who, What, When and Why

InfantSEE is a public health program managed by Optometry's Charity—The ADA Foundation and is designed to ensure that eye and vision care become an integral part of infant wellness care to improve a child's quality of life. Optometrists encourage parents to have assessments done at 6 and 12 months of age. This assessment is free by InfantSEE.

Just as early intervention to a suspected developmental delay is important, early detection of vision problems is the focus of InfantSEE. Vision and hearing are often left out of early infant health screenings but many problems begin during the first year

Not only is early intervention critical to successful treatment but also the most cost-effective. Many children don't have their vision screened until they enter Kindergarten and the school nurse does the first screening.

This means the first five years the child's eyes are developing untended. As problems progress it makes treatment harder to be successful.

On their website: www.infantsee.org, a parent can read about finding an InfantSEE provider, what to prepare for in the

first visit, and what the doctor is looking for. There is also a section for doctors to participate in a grant, read guidelines on concerns, see an infant exam video and how to sign up to be an InfantSEE provider.

InfantSEE advises that at 3 months children tend to see objects about a foot away and follow moving objects. At 6 months both eyes should focus equally. By 9 months eye contact replaces physical contact. And by 12 months, children should use both eyes to judge distances.

Through the efforts of this program, parents have a wonderful resource to promote healthy vision in their child by one of many InfantSEE providers in Wyoming.

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HELPFUL LINKS

National Early Childhood Transition Center <http://www.hdi.uky.edu/SF/NECTC/Home.aspx> Center on Child Abuse and Neglect <http://ccan.ouhsc.edu>

IDEA Infant & Toddler <http://www.ideainfanttoddler.org>

Preschool Special Education http://brighttots.com/Preschool_Special_Education/html

What is Early Intervention? http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content/early_intervention.html

Resources for Parents on the Web—Mayo Clinic

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/infant-and-toddler-health/MY00362>

Are you getting ready to have a new child? Or have a new baby already? This website can help with those various and basic health issues such as vaccines, using a thermometer, car seats, flu shots, rashes, hand washing, fruit juice, bottles, and a lot more. Unless you attend a lengthy class on caring for a new baby these are all basic topics that parents usually end up asking others for help or reading a book or just 'shooting from the

hip'.

Another section of the website has developmental milestones in a child's speech. There are even multiple videos and slideshows on



things such as pumps, helmets, baby sign language, birthmarks, baths, and soft spots.

Parents are also encouraged to check out the expert section which has question/answers on things like slings, wheezing, formulas, growth, Terrible Twos, and it's broken down between newborn, infant, and toddler.

Finally they have a section with many links to other websites. Before your new baby is born please check out this highly informative website with all those little, basic, but necessary health issues. By being informed, you are promoting good health in your child.

The Early Intervention and Education Program at the Developmental Disabilities Division provides assistance and oversight to the regional child development centers that serve young children, from birth through 5 years of age, with disabilities and their families across Wyoming.

We're on the web!

<http://health.wyo.gov/ddd/earlychildhood/index.html>



Wyoming
Department
of Health

Commit to your health.

Developmental Disabilities
Division

Early Intervention and
Education Program

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Please send any suggestions for
content you would like to see such
as: websites, TA help, Q&A topics,
etc.

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