



*"Our son has advanced by leaps and bounds
in many ways that were tough for him."*

ESM parent

For more information

Maine Child Development Services

877.770.8883
maine.gov/doe/cds/contacts.html

Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research

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Early Start Maine is a partnership of the
Maine Autism Institute for Education and
Research and the Maine Department of
Education.

The Maine Department of Education Office
of Special Services, along with Maine Child
Development Services, provides significant
support and funding for the Early Start
Maine Program.

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Early Start Maine

Intervention services for
young children with autism



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About ESDM

The Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) is an early intervention program designed to promote language, learning and engagement for young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

ESDM:

- Is supported by research
- Strengthens all areas of development
- Teaches skills through play
- Builds social relationships
- Integrates hands-on strategies within a family's everyday activities
- Takes place in child's home or child care setting

Developed by psychologists Geraldine Dawson, Ph.D., and Sally Rogers, Ph.D., ESDM is based on the principles of developmental psychology and applied behavior analysis.

"The support and encouragement we received was the most helpful part of ESDM. Everyone is so involved in our child's well-being and progress."

ESM parent

"The ESDM program was the start of our daughter being able to communicate. We saw more improvement in her communication and social skills in the first couple months than we ever thought possible."

ESM parent

Family involvement

Parental involvement is a crucial part of Early Start Maine. The primary service provider will explain and model teaching strategies to use at home. Through coaching, families are supported in using the strategies during everyday activities, such as meals, bath time and play.

"The coaching helped our family to be able to help our child on our own." ESM parent

Who we are

Early Start Maine is an initiative of the Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research. The Early Start Maine team is comprised of nationally certified Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) therapists. In partnership with Maine Child Development Services, our team provides training, consultation and ongoing support to early intervention providers statewide who are working with toddlers with autism.

What we do

- Assess a child's skills using the ESDM Curriculum Checklist
- Develop teaching objectives to address a child's needs and family priorities
- Provide support and consultation to a family's primary service provider
- Monitor a child's progress on the ESDM objectives

