

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

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We're still looking
for an attorney to
sit on our
board of trustees.



Easy & Inexpensive High
Protein Foods

(click link below)

Reminder!

Attention Early Intervention Families If you have a parent fee, please remember to pay it each month.

Your bill will come by the method you selected. Either in an email from no_reply@utah.gov or as a letter.

We love serving you and your family!

Celebrate National Children's Day - June 8th

As we celebrate **National Children's Day**, we want to extend our gratitude:

- To **the families** who trust us with their children's early development - we thank you.
- To our **incredible staff**, who give their hearts, skills, and energy to make a difference every single day - we thank you.

At DDI Vantage, we are honored to serve children from birth to age three through our **Early Intervention** and **Early Head Start** programs. In 2024 alone, we supported approximately **4,500 children**, each with their own unique strengths, challenges, and potential.

Every day, our dedicated staff members work hand-in-hand with families to help children meet developmental milestones and gain essential life skills. It's more than a job—it's a calling. We find deep purpose and meaning in walking alongside families during this critical time of growth.

As President John F. Kennedy once said, "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." At DDI Vantage, we see this truth every day. The first three years of life are a critical window for development, when the brain is most adaptable and when timely support can make a lasting difference.

We are committed to helping our community's youngest members thrive—because they are, truly, our most valuable resource and our best hope for the future.

-Kellie Lyon-
Executive Director



Early Head Start



Our Early Head Start program is filled with fun and exciting activities that bring families together and support the development of young children through shared experiences. This spring our Early Head Start program planned trips to local zoos and aquariums, where toddlers explored the wonders of nature and sea life up close. These adventures offered families the chance to see the world through their child's eyes, full of curiosity, excitement, and discovery—while also encouraging language development and early learning in a joyful, hands-on environment.



In addition to our enriching field trips, we host regular family playdates that create opportunities for parents and caregivers to connect with one another while engaging in meaningful play with their children. These gatherings help build deep family bonds and provide a supportive space where families can share stories, ideas, and encouragement. Our family advocates play an important role in supporting each family, offering guidance and resources that help strengthen parenting skills, reduce stress, and promote a sense of belonging and confidence.

Our program also helps families connect with their broader communities in a meaningful and enriching way. Whether it's through participating in local events, accessing community resources, or volunteering together, we encourage families to become active members of the world around them. These experiences not only support child development but also empower families to grow stronger together—building relationships, creating memories, and fostering a lifelong love of learning, exploration, and connection.



Family Story

“Our daughter came to us through foster care at 5 months. She had been neglected and was malnourished. She could barely hold her head up and was anything but thriving. We started with DDI Vantage around 8 months, when she still wasn’t rolling or sitting up.

From occupational therapists to speech therapists, we always had help in setting goals including rolling, crawling, walking, gross motor and fine motor skills. They also helped get her talking more and helped us work through sleep issues.

So many goals have been set and accomplished. My baby that couldn’t hold herself up sitting now runs, jumps, and climbs all over. We still have goals to work on with speech and language, but she’s more talkative and has more intelligible speech. She’s ready to move forward with special needs preschool, but DDI Vantage has been an incredible blessing for our family! We really appreciate the love, compassion, and kindness we’ve been given. I really love how I could tell they love and care about my sweet daughter, her siblings, and our entire family.”

-An Early Intervention and Early Head Start Family--

Teaching Your Child About Feelings

Social-emotional development describes how children learn to understand, express, and manage their emotions; respond to the emotions of others; develop meaningful relationships; and cooperate with others.

From birth to age 2, parents and caregivers have a big part to play in helping children learn about feelings. The most important thing they can do is meet their babies' needs, love and nurture them, and comfort them when they are upset. This type of responsive care helps very young children build a strong, loving relationship with the adults who care for them. Feeling safe and secure, loved and nurtured, is the biggest and most important ingredient for a child's healthy social-emotional development. There are other things that you can do to help your baby or young toddler begin to learn about feelings and how to express them. These are all good habits to develop while your child is young so that they become part of your everyday interactions and routines.

Birth to 18 Months

Read or tell stories about feelings.

Play peek-a-boo.

Know that your baby senses how you are feeling.

Help your child recover when feelings get overwhelming.

Look in the mirror with your child.

Watch to see how your child responds to sounds and textures.

18 Months to 2 Years

Use pretend play as a chance to talk about feelings.

Make a homemade book about feelings.

Empathize with your child's feelings.

Use songs to practice feeling words.

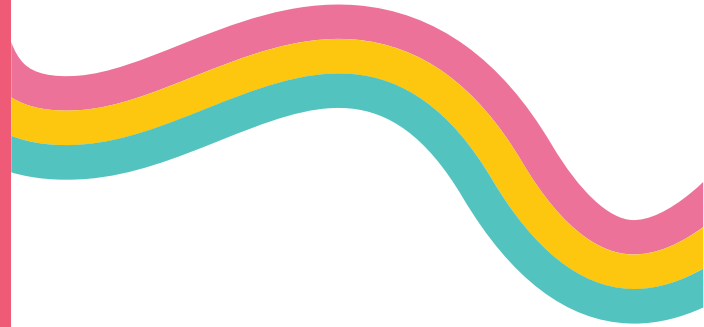
Make a cozy place in your home.



I SPY SUMMER



© Mrs. Merry (www.mrsmerry.com)



Strawberry Yogurt Pop

2 cups fresh strawberries
2/3 cup Greek yogurt
1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 Tablespoons honey



1. Add all ingredients to the blender.
2. Blend for about 1 minute or until the mixture is smooth. (Strain mixture if you desire a smoother texture.)
3. Evenly distribute mixture into a popsicle mold.
4. Freeze for 8 hours or overnight.
5. Enjoy!

TheChoppingBlock.com

