

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



IN THIS ISSUE

Pg. 1

- Link to DDI Vantage Nutritionist Blog
- Reminder
- Donor Shoutout

Pg 2

- Fiscal Year End - Upcoming Events

Pg. 3

- Welcome Sadie - Early Head Start Program Director

Pg 4

- Family Story

Pg 5

- Spotlight - Adult and Youth Services (AYS)

Pg 6

- Join Us - AYS Open House

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Image from Unsplash



Top 5 Dietitian Approved
Minimal Cook Meal Ideas

(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!

June 30th Marked Our Fiscal Year End -



Here's what's ahead for DDI Vantage!

August & September

LEARN ABOUT US - Social Media Campaign

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During the months of August and September we'll be asking you to **Learn About Us** through posts on our social media. Please follow us on Linked In, Facebook, or Instagram!

DDI VANTAGE TURNS 54!

.....
September marks 54 years of serving the community for DDI Vantage! We'll celebrate with our annual Employee Recognition Event.

October

ART SHOW - Celebrating 60 years of Head Start

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Save The Date: On October 23rd we'll celebrate 60 years of Head Start with an Art Show in Millcreek.

November & December

ANNUAL SUB FOR SANTA

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During the holidays, we'll have our Sub for Santa program. DDI Vantage has organized this program for over 30 years and we love being able to help our community.

Welcome

Sadie Rodriguez

Early Head Start Program Director



A proud Head Start kid in 2003, Sadie Rodriguez's early experiences shaped her lifelong passion for supporting children and families. With over eight years in early childhood education, she has held roles ranging from Therapeutic Preschool Specialist and severe Child Abuse Investigator to Behavior Specialist, Manager of Disabilities and Mental Health, and Manager of Early Childhood Education. Sadie has presented at the Early Childhood Conference of Utah from 2023 to 2025 and is set to present at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Conference in November 2025. She is deeply committed to professional development, creating and delivering bilingual trainings on trauma-informed practices, behavior support, and inclusive learning.

Sadie earned her Bachelor's in Social Work and holds an ECMH-E® (Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement), blending her lived experience with professional expertise.

Now, as the Early Head Start Program Director at DDI Vantage, Sadie is dedicated to ensuring every child and family has the support, resources, and opportunities to thrive through home-based services, child care partnerships, and strong community collaboration. Her work is rooted in the belief that every child—no matter their background—deserves to feel safe, valued, and empowered from the very start.

Family Story

My son struggled to speak English and was unable to communicate, especially with strangers. After entering the program (Early Head Start), he began interacting with his teacher and his ability to communicate began to improve. He began to play more with kids from the neighborhood and became more confident with his abilities. He also became more interested in reading and writing as a result. I think that this program has ignited his interest and curiosity in reading and has helped to provide a positive next step in his learning overall.



-An Early Head Start Family-



The AYS Program has been in existence since 1988. For the last, close to 8 years, I have been honored to be a part of this amazing program as a Direct Support Staff and Program Coordinator. The program would not have been possible without the support of an incredible administrative team but especially our Direct Support Professionals, both present and past . Our team consists of an amazing core of individuals who have shown kindness , empathy, emotional and mental endurance and love for their jobs and their clients. They have advocated for their clients in a myriad of ways , making sure that their clients voices are heard and that they are seen as vital members of our community at large. They assist our clients with maintaining their homes, preparing home cooked meals, doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, accessing the community for activities and events that are of interest to the clients as well as sparking new interests in them. It's not uncommon to find staff and clients hiking the various trails the east bench and canyons have to offer, working out at the rec center, walking to get their steps at the various parks throughout the valley and group activities like the Utah Arts Festival, Utah State Fair, movies, and trips to Thanksgiving Point, birthday celebrations at various restaurants, pizza and sandwich picnics at the park and car shows. The list is endless and ever growing and the core team that makes it happen? Well here they are ; Nigeria Mangué-Ngomo (14 yrs), Brandon Briggs (11yrs), Noa Salazar (4yrs), Corey Young (3 yrs), Ben Sykes (2yrs) and Kitty Johnson (1.5 yrs) . These amazing individuals have collectively improved the quality of life of each one of our AYS clients and strived to make their days a little less ordinary .

-Felix Salazar, AYS Program Coordinattor





YOU'RE INVITED!

37 YEARS OF IMPACT: AN AYS OPEN HOUSE

After 37 incredible years of service, the DDI Vantage AYS program is ending services—but not without celebrating the people who made it all possible.

We warmly invite current and former employees, clients, families, and friends to join us in honoring the legacy, stories, and lasting impact of our work supporting adults with disabilities.

August 7, 2025

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

DDI Vantage

670 E 3900 S, SLC - 1st Floor

Enter through west door from the lower level parking lot

Come reconnect with old friends, share memories, and help us celebrate the journey that shaped so many lives.