



vantage

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Easy & Inexpensive High
Protein Foods

(Click the link below.)



Reminder

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

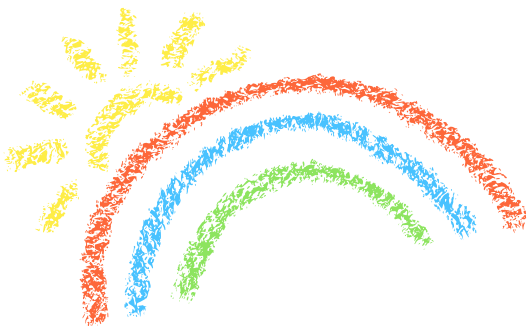
Your bill will come by the method you selected. Either in an email from no_reply@utah.gov or as a letter.

We love serving you and your family!

Family Story

Before starting with DDI, our daughter came to us through Foster Care at 5 months. She has been neglected and was malnourished. She could barely hold her head up and was anything but thriving. Early Intervention came in and helped me learn new ways to encourage her and provided suggestions on building muscles, speech therapy, and improving her sleep.

So many goals have been set and accomplished. My baby that could not hold herself up sitting; now, she runs, jumps, and climbs! We will continue work on setting new goals and milestones for her and are so appreciated of DDI for their support.



Foster Family



happy
BIRTHDAY



vantage

Celebrating a
legacy from
1971 to 2026!



Happy 55th Anniversary DDI Vantage!

It is hard to put **55** years of caring, serving, and changing lives into words.

For **55** years, DDI Vantage has had the privilege of being part of something much bigger than just a non-profit. We have been part of families' stories. We have celebrated first steps, first words, new milestones, and moments that families once wondered if they would ever see. We have stood beside parents when they needed someone to believe in their child, and we have watched children grow, learn, and thrive.

Today, our Early Intervention and Early Head Start programs continue that work, serving young children age 0-3, and their families in the communities we call home. For many years, DDI Vantage also served adults with disabilities. For so many years, our employees supported individuals as they built friendships, learned new skills, found meaningful work, became more independent, and lived lives filled with purpose and belonging. Those years are an important part of who we are. The employees who served them will always be part of the DDI Vantage story as well.

One of the most remarkable things about **55** years is the number of people who have been part of the journey. We have employees who have given five years, ten years, twenty years and more, and some who have devoted decades of their lives to this organization. Our staff longevity says something about DDI Vantage. It says that people believe in the work. It says that they care deeply about the people we serve. And it reminds us that the impact of an organization is never really about the organization itself. It is about the people who show up every day and choose to make a difference.

For **55** years, thousands of children, adults, and families have been touched by DDI Vantage. Thousands of lives have been made a little better because someone cared enough to help, teach, listen, encourage, advocate, or simply be there. And that is worth celebrating.

As we celebrate **55** years, we also recognize that we are a nonprofit. We depend on the generosity of people who believe that every person deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, participate, and reach their potential. So this year, we are inviting our community to help us celebrate **55** years with a gift of **\$55** - just \$1 for every year DDI Vantage has been making a difference.

Your **\$55** may seem like a small gift, but when many people come together, small gifts can make a tremendous impact. More importantly, your gift says, I believe in this work. I believe in these families. I believe in these children. I believe in these individuals. And I believe the next **55** years matter, too.

For **55** years, our communities in Salt Lake, Tooele & Duchesne Counties have given us the opportunity to serve. For **55** years, our employees have given their hearts to the work. For **55** years, families have trusted us to walk alongside us. And for **55** years, we have been reminded again and again that every person has the power to make a difference in someone else's life.

Thank you for being part of our story.

Here's to **55** years of making a difference and to all the lives we have yet to touch.

Happy 55th Anniversary DDI Vantage,

Kellie Lyon

Executive Director

Learning During The Second Year Of Life

We often focus on what young toddlers are learning, but **how they learn** is important too. The how behind children's learning includes self-regulation, initiative and curiosity, and creativity. These interconnected skills and behaviors drive how children engage with their world. When we understand how toddlers learn, we are better able to help them grow their knowledge and skills across learning domains.

DO IT AGAIN!

Have you ever noticed your child do the same action repeatedly? Or bring you the same book to read every night? Repetition helps children learn about how the world works, so hide that toy or read that book again. If your child becomes frustrated during play, encourage them to keep trying. Watch their cues. Give just enough help to bring their learning to the next level.

PROVIDE OPEN-ENDED MATERIALS

Look around your home for materials that encourage creative play. You don't need fancy toys to encourage curiosity and creativity at home. Don't have blocks? Use plastic containers of different sizes as stacking cups. Look for items that are safe and appropriate for the child's ability level. Head outside or bring the outdoors in. Sticks, shells, leaves, and water are great ways to add open-ended materials to a child's play.

BE A MODEL

Toddlers learn by watching us. We model everything from curiosity to how to manage our emotions. Be curious about things in your environment. Peer under a chair pretending to look for them. Say "I wonder where or what ...". Be creative in how you use materials, like building a fort out of pillows and blankets. Name your emotions and remain calm when frustrated.

FOLLOW THEIR LEAD

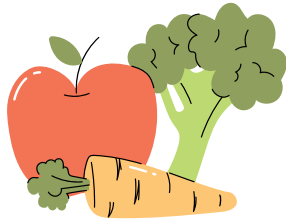
Give toddlers space and time to wonder and explore. Be flexible as they use materials in creative ways. Be there in case they need you, but don't step in too soon. Children develop autonomy and persistence when they have a chance to follow their interests and try things on their own.



September 13th Was National Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day!

What can your toddler do to
help in the kitchen?

Wash fruits and veggies



Fill measuring spoons or cups and pour
contents into mixing bowl with assistance.



Stir ingredients together in a mixing bowl.



Tear lettuce for salads.

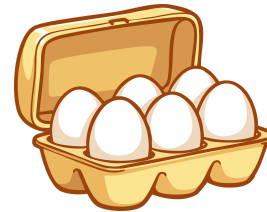


Turn the pages in a recipe book.



With a little help, beat eggs or mash
potatoes.

Sprinkle cheese onto a dish.



Benefits: practicing counting skills with things like eggs or other ingredients, build vocabulary, increased fine motor skills, becoming familiar with new ingredients, following simple directions.