



HELP ME GROW LA: PARENT CAFES

Help Me Grow LA will host a parent café providing a safe space for parents/caregivers raising children with developmental delays and special health needs to participate in reflective conversations.

EVENT INFORMATION

Wednesday, April 3, 2024
MLK Center for Public Health
11833 Wilmington Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90059
10am-12:30pm

THE ISSUE

Families face a multitude of challenges when seeking resources for a child with special health care needs. Children of color have lower rates of access to both screening and early intervention and intervention (EII) services compared to white children. Black caregivers report a lower quality of care when accessing EII services. In LAC, Black children have the lowest average monthly spending per child for Early Start. In California, Black children have a lower rate of timeline determination of eligibility of service than children from other groups.

HOW IT IMPACTS THE COMMUNITY

Parents often struggle with access to emotional support and practical advice for accessing resources. Like all of us, Parents benefit greatly from emotional support and positive reinforcement from others.

WHAT PUBLIC HEALTH IS DOING

Public Health is launching a Parent Café, a dedicated space where parents can give and receive emotional and practical support in a low-pressure, nurturing environment. We are elevating awareness among communities for children with special health needs, focusing efforts on community supports and acknowledging the challenges when trying to access important services. A key highlight is Help Me Grow LA's Family Partners, whom are strategically placed in the Service Planning Area offices, so they can focus on families in communities that need the extra support. We are also inviting like-missioned agencies to support the cause. To parents of children with special health care needs, extra patience, kindness, and small offers of help go a long way.

This will be a call to action for communities to begin a Parent Café of their own at a local community center, church, or school.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 1 in 6 children ages 3-17, or about 17% of children aged 3 through 17 years have a one or more developmental disabilities.
- CALIFORNIA RANKS 49th in screening infants and toddlers for development.
- Only 25.2% of California children receive timely developmental screenings.

RESOURCES & SUPPORT

TELEPHONE:

- 1-833-903-3972

WEB:

- [HelpMeGrowLA.org](https://www.HelpMeGrowLA.org)

