



*Children learn and develop faster during the first years than any other time . . . You are the most important influence in your child's development.*

# Your Child's Developmental Risk Screen and Birth to Three



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1-800-642-8522



## Early Intervention

### ***What is developmental delay?***

Developmental delay is when a baby or child develops more slowly than average.

### ***Developmental delays can affect one or more of these areas:***

- ◆ Ability to think and learn
- ◆ Control of large and small muscles.
- ◆ Speech, hearing and language.
- ◆ Being comfortable with family, playmates, and siblings, and ability to express feelings such as happiness, sadness, hunger or fatigue. (Social and emotional development)
- ◆ Ability to eat and dress.

### ***Does this mean there is something wrong with my child?***

A Developmental Risk means the child is at risk for developmental delay. Actual delay may or may not be present. Additional testing is needed to find out more. With your permission, your family will be referred to your local Birth to Three: Early Intervention program. They can help you with free developmental testing and free services designed especially for the needs of your child and family.



### ***Why is the hospital screening newborns? Wouldn't it be better to just wait and see if the baby will be okay?***

It is important to identify developmental delay early. Many children do not begin to show obvious signs until they are several months old or older. (Meanwhile, they may not have learned certain skills necessary for typical development.) Starting Early Intervention at a very young age can help reduce problems and may even prevent some problems. Several federal laws, including Part H of Public Law 99-457 require that certain services be made available to your child and family.

### ***Who decides what services my child and my family will need?***

A team (including you and a variety of specialists) assesses the unique needs of your child and family. Together, you and the rest of the team will decide what services will best meet your child's special needs and your family's ability to deal with those needs. You decide which needs are the most important. This information becomes part of your child's Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP), a written plan for meeting those needs.

### ***How long can my child get Early Intervention services?***

Children at risk for or having a developmental delay can get needed services until their third birthday. The Individualized Family Service Plan must include a plan for making the change from the Birth to Three Program to other appropriate programs, such as Head Start, preschool or day care.

### ***What does Developmental Risk Screening have to do with me?***

The hospital uses a screening checklist to identify babies who may need early help with development. If your child is at risk, your family will be referred to a local Birth to Three Early Intervention Program.

### ***How Will Early Intervention Help?***

Children learn and develop faster during the first years than any other time. Early Intervention helps you to understand and encourage your child's development in ways that are fun and a natural part of everyday work and play. You are the most important influence in your child's development. The Birth to Three Program also makes sure you have access to special resources or services if needed to help your child and family.

### ***How Much Will This Cost?***

There is no cost to you if your child is eligible. With your informed permission, the early intervention program may bill medicaid or your family's insurance.

### ***May I Refuse Services?***

Parents may refuse services at any time.

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