

Developmental Monitoring – Learn the Signs, Act Early

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC's) "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program encourages parents and providers to learn the signs of healthy development, monitor every child's early development, and act early when there is a concern. The program offers free checklists and other tools to make developmental monitoring practical and easy.

CDC's Milestone Tracker App

CDC's Milestone Tracker app, available in English and Spanish, provides a fun and easy way for parents and caregivers to track and support their child's early development from ages 2 months to 5 years.



[Click here to learn more](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones-app.html)

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Milestone Checklists

How a child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves offers important clues about his or her development. Families can use these checklists to track and celebrate their child's development and learn what to do if they ever have concerns.

Your Baby at 9 Months

Child's Name: _____ Child's Age: 9 months Today's Date: _____

How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by certain ages. Check the milestones your child has reached by the end of 9 months. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about if the milestones your child has reached are what is expected.

What Most Babies Do at this Age:

Social/Emotional

- She looks at pictures
- She looks with her hands
- She looks to you

Language/Communication

- Understands "no"
- Shows a lot of interest in the "sounds" of "babbling"
- Copies sounds and gestures of others
- Uses 1 word to ask for things

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- Chooses the part or something to do
- Looks for the way you do
- Plays with a toy
- Put things in the mouth
- Shows that something you do has to be done
- Picks up things that are in between things or between things

Movement/Physical Development

- Stands with aid
- Can get on sitting position
- Can crawl on hands and knees
- Can walk with aid
- Can walk

Act Early by Talking to Your Child's Doctor if Your Child:

- Doesn't have weight or height with support
- Doesn't sit without aid
- Doesn't babble "mama" "dada" "baba"
- Doesn't take any action in looking back and forth play
- Doesn't respond to his name
- Doesn't respond to requests from people
- Doesn't look when you speak
- Doesn't respond when he is asked to do other

Get your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay by the age and talk with concern to your community and a teacher with information for your child's play area, school or your child's public and private programs. For more information, go to www.cdc.gov/actearly or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children be screened for general developmental delay at the end of each year. Your child's doctor should also check your child's developmental screening.

www.cdc.gov/actearly | 1-800-CDC-INFO

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Available in English and Spanish

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones-app.html>

https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/spanish/actearly/pdf/milestones-tips/CDC_LTSAE-SPN-AE-Checklist-with-Tips-2019-P.pdf

Developmental Monitoring and Screening

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends both developmental monitoring and developmental screening for **all** children. You can share this fact sheet with families that provides information in English and Spanish on the importance of both.

[Click here to learn more](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/Dev-Mon-and-Screen-English-and-Spanish-P.pdf>

Communicating with Families

Although not specifically intended for physicians, this [CDC tip sheet](#) offers great *Tips for Talking with Parents about Developmental Concerns*. Messaging and communication with families about developmental screening and screening results should be clear, consistent, and direct. What you say to families is as much about style as it is about the specific words.

https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/tipstalkingparents.pdf

Developmental Screening

The [Early Intervention Care Coordination Provider Toolkit](#) is a resource designed to help medical providers initiate a referral to Early Intervention services for children with suspected developmental delay, and to receive information back from Early Intervention about the outcome of the referral. This medical provider toolkit has been developed by Illinois Healthy Beginnings II (IHB2).

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/NovemberCoordinatingMedicalHomes.pdf>

After a child has been screened for developmental delay and if you have concerns about the screening results, the next step is to refer that child and family to the appropriate resources or programs that will best meet their identified needs.

If a developmental delay for a child under age 3 is identified a referral is made to Early Intervention (EI). EI provides supports to children under age 3. This [website](#) <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30321> provides more information on EI and how to access the Early Intervention Child and Family Connections office in your local area to have a child evaluated (see referral process below). Children 0–3 years old and their families are eligible for EI services if child has one of the following:

- 1) [≥ 30% developmental delay](#) in at least one area of development: cognitive, physical, social-emotional, communication, or adaptive
- 2) [Medically diagnosed physical or mental condition resulting in high probability of developmental delay](#) (e.g. Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy)
- 3) [At risk](#) of substantial developmental delay because: • Parent has a mental health diagnosis or developmental disability according to DSM-5 • Child meets 3 of 7 identified risk factors.

Early Intervention Referral Process

[Standardized Illinois Early Intervention Referral Form \(HFS 650\) - R03-2018](#)

[Illinois Early Intervention Referral Fax Back Form \(HFS 652\)- R03-2018](#)

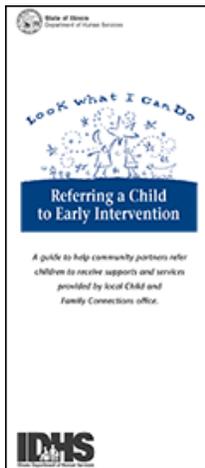
El Resources and Training on the Referral Process

RESOURCES

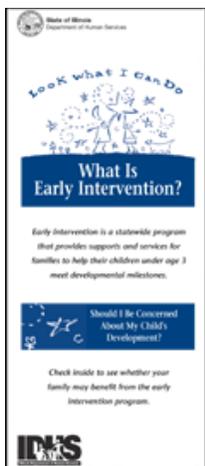
[List of Diagnoses that make children automatically eligible for Early Intervention services](#)

[Referral Infographic](#) - infographic with key information about referring to EI, developed collaboratively with CFC offices: <https://eitp.education.illinois.edu/Files/COVID19/Referralinfographic.pdf>

[Referring a Child to Early Intervention](#) - A guide to help community partners refer children to receive supports and services provided by local Child and Family Connections office.



[What is Early Intervention?](#) This brochure is an introduction to the Illinois Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.



TRAININGS

[Referral to Illinois Early Intervention](#) (EI Credit, 1 WWF) – This presentation provides a brief, interactive overview of the Illinois Early Intervention (IL EI) referral process and the 3 pathways for children and

families to become eligible for IL EI services. The importance of ensuring strong communication with referral sources and primary care providers throughout the referral process is a key factor emphasized during this presentation.

[Referral to Illinois Early Intervention](#) (no registration or credit attached) – This presentation provides an overview of the EI referral process and explains the purpose and procedure for the 2 referral forms – the *Standardized EI Referral Form* <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/hfs650.pdf> and *Illinois EI Program Referral Fax Back Form* <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/hfs652.pdf>

If a developmental delay for a child over three is identified, Early Childhood Special Education and Related Services for children, three through five years of age and their families, are provided through local school districts and special education cooperatives.

Referral Process

- [Standardized Request for Early Childhood Special Education Evaluation](#) 
- [Early Childhood Special Education Referral Fax Back Form](#) 