

The New York City Early Intervention Program  
Developmental Monitoring



Help every child  
get a great start

# Fast Facts

- Approximately 15% of U.S. children have some form of developmental delay that affects their ability to communicate, learn, interact with others or regulate their behavior. Only 30% of those delays are identified before a child reaches school age.
- Finding and addressing developmental delays earlier can play a significant role in helping children reach their full potential.
- Key areas of child development to assess for delays during well-child visits include communication, physical gross and fine motor skills, and cognitive and social-emotional skills.

## Inform Parents

Help parents understand the importance of developmental milestones and explain to them that detecting and treating developmental delays *early* is so important in helping their child reach full potential.



# Refer to Developmental Monitoring

If the child is under age 3 and:

- had a gestational age of less than 33 weeks
- spent more than 10 days in neonatal intensive care
- is the child of a teenage mother
- is the child of a mother who did not receive prenatal care
- had a birth weight of less than 1501 grams (3 pounds, 5 ounces)
- has blood lead levels greater than 19 mcg/dl
- has missed or failed an initial newborn hearing screening
- exhibits growth deficiency or nutritional problems (such as SGA [small for gestational age])
- has been exposed to homelessness or domestic violence

## How Developmental Monitoring Can Help

Developmental Monitoring tracks children who are at risk for delays, but who might not currently show delays that would make them eligible for the Early Intervention Program. Once you make a referral, we will work with families to monitor progress, using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire®, a child development screening tool. We do this by mail or phone.

If the screenings begin to show atypical development, we will transfer the child to the New York City Early Intervention Program for further assessment.



## How the Early Intervention Program Can Help

Early Intervention gives each referred child a complete developmental evaluation. If the child qualifies for the program, Early Intervention will assign service coordination and therapeutic help at no cost to the family. However, New York City is required by law to seek payment from families' insurance companies. This will not increase premiums, require copayments or reduce benefits. All services are confidential and participation is voluntary.

Early Intervention takes a family-centered approach, using the family's natural environment and daily routines to achieve the best possible results. Help is available in such as areas as speech, physical and occupational therapy, special instruction, psychological and social work intervention, family support groups and assistive technology. Most Early Intervention services are provided in the child's home or daycare setting.



The Early Intervention Program's Developmental Monitoring staff screens children from birth to age three who may be at risk for developmental delays as a result of prenatal or postnatal medical and/or psycho-social conditions.

Developmental Monitoring follows each child's progress and makes referrals.

Refer children who are at risk for developmental delays. Give them a chance to reach their full potential.

Call 311 and ask for Early Intervention or download the referral form at <http://nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/earlyint/ei-referral-form.pdf>



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at risk for developmental delays  
reach their full potential.

The earlier the better.

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