

The New York City Early Intervention Program  
Developmental Monitoring



Help your child  
get a great start

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and MENTAL HYGIENE

# Are you concerned about your infant or toddler?

New York City's Early Intervention Program can help.

Our Developmental Monitoring staff will work with you, giving you a simple tool to help you measure how well your child—from birth to age three—is progressing.

If delays are discovered, we can make referrals for one-on-one help.

To participate in this free program, please call 311 and ask for Early Intervention.





## Children Learn and Develop Differently

Sometimes, for many different reasons, some infants and toddlers start walking and talking and playing with toys more quickly than other children their age. It is important to learn what to expect from your child and to detect concerns early.

If you are worried about your child's development, the NYC Early Intervention Program's Developmental Monitoring staff can help.

Maybe your doctor, social worker or daycare center has referred you to us. That is a plus, since research shows that the younger a child is when delays are discovered and help is given, the better the outcome may be.

## Who Can Make a Referral to Early Intervention for Developmental Monitoring?

Parents, caregivers, doctors, social workers, daycare providers and other professionals all can make referrals to Early Intervention for Developmental Monitoring.

Here are some questions to ask yourself, if you think your child might benefit from developmental monitoring:

- Was your baby born at less than 33 weeks?
- Did your baby spend more than 10 days in neonatal intensive care?
- Are you a teenage mom?
- Did you not receive prenatal care?
- Did your baby weigh less than four pounds at birth?
- Did your child have lead test results that were too high?
- Has your child missed or failed a newborn hearing screening?
- Has your child been affected by homelessness or domestic violence?





## How Can Developmental Monitoring Help?

If you have concerns about your child's development, we can help you measure progress at every stage.

Every few months, we will ask you to answer some simple questions that we will either send you in the mail or go over with you on the phone. Your answers to this *Ages and Stages Questionnaire*® will show how your child is doing, compared to other children the same age.

The questions are about five different areas of development: communication, large body movement, hand and finger movement, solving problems and playing alone and with others.

We realize that parents know their children best and we understand that what you will tell us is the most important indicator of your child's progress. We will listen to you and work with you, if:

- your child might need additional testing
- it seems as though watchful waiting—continuing to check on your child's progress—would be most helpful
- the results show that your child may be at risk for a developmental delay, in which case we will work with you to find help, including transferring the case to the Early Intervention Program

## How Can the Early Intervention Program Help?

First, you will be assigned your own Service Coordinator, who will help walk you through the evaluation process. Early Intervention professionals will take a careful look at your child to find out what developmental delays there may be. If your infant or toddler needs help, a special one-on-one program will be designed to help your child achieve full potential.

A trained professional will help you learn how to provide therapeutic services, using your family's every day routines, and will work closely with you every step of the way. This work can be done either in your own home or at your child's day care center.

There is no cost to families for Early Intervention services. We believe that the Early Intervention program can provide real benefits to your child.

Note: Health insurance, including private insurance and Medicaid, is used to pay for early intervention services in New York State. New York State law protects family insurance policies from being affected by payments for early intervention services. Your insurance policy can only be used if your insurance company is licensed or regulated by New York State.







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