

Concerns About Development

Bringing your baby home from the NICU is a special event. It's natural to be excited *and* to have concerns about what to expect when you get home. Concerns about your baby's development may cause you to worry.

- *My daughter weighed only one pound at birth. What will this mean for her development?*
- *The doctor and therapist said my son's muscles are tight. I've noticed this too and want to know how to help him.*
- *My daughter has a G-tube and failed her hearing screen. Can I help her learn to eat? How do I know if she can hear?*

Talk to your baby's health care providers in the NICU *and* when your baby comes home. You or your child's health care or other service provider should call the **Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program** (at the local numbers listed on the back) if you have concerns about your child's development.

The earlier the better.

For information or to refer a child and family to the **Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program**, call the number listed for your county.

Allegany	301-689-0466
Anne Arundel	410-222-6911
Baltimore City	410-396-1666
Baltimore County	410-887-2169
Calvert	410-414-7034
Caroline	410-479-3246
Carroll	410-876-4437, x277
Cecil	410-996-5444
Charles	301-609-6808
Dorchester	410-221-2111, x1023
Frederick	301-600-1612
Garrett	301-334-1189
Harford	410-638-3823
Howard	410-313-7017
Kent	410-778-7164
Montgomery	240-777-3997
Prince George's	1-800-469-1865
Queen Anne's	410-758-0720, x4456
Somerset	410-623-2037
St. Mary's	301-475-4393
Talbot	410-820-0319
Washington	301-766-8217
Wicomico	410-677-5250
Worcester	410-632-5033

Maryland State Department of Education

Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program/Preschool Services
200 West Baltimore Street, 9th floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-767-0261 phone
1-800-535-0182 toll free
410-333-8165 fax



MarylandPublicSchools.org

Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools
James H. DeGraffenreid, Jr., President, State Board of Education
Carol Ann Heath, Assistant State Superintendent, Division
of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor

7/09

The Maryland State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. For inquiries related to departmental policy, contact the Equity Assurance and Compliance Branch at 410-767-0246 Voice, 410-333-2226 Fax, or 410-333-6442 TDD. • This document was developed and produced by the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services with funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, IDEA, Part C, Grant #H181A020124. • The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Education or any other federal agency and should not be regarded as such. • The information is copyright free. Readers are encouraged to copy and share it, but please credit the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, Maryland State Department of Education. • In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) this document is available in alternative formats, upon request. Contact the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program/Preschool Services Branch at 410-767-0261 Voice, 410-333-2661 Fax, 410-333-0731 TDD.



After The NICU

**A Guide to the
Maryland Infants &
Toddlers Program**
For Infants and Toddlers
With Developmental
Disabilities and Their
Families

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

Early Intervention

Families provide the foundation for young children to grow and learn. During the first three years of a child's life, it's important to focus on the child's developmental needs and make the most of his or her natural abilities.

The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program directs a family-centered system of early intervention services for young children, ages birth to 3 years, with developmental delays and disabilities and their families—under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Early intervention services are designed to enhance a child's potential for growth and development and the family's ability to meet the special needs of their child.

Services are offered through local Infants and Toddlers Programs, at no cost to families, and may take place in the child's home or other natural environment.

You or your child's doctor or other service provider can call the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program as soon as there are concerns about your child's development—while your baby is still in the NICU or when your baby comes home.

With your consent, the local Infants and Toddlers Program will evaluate your child's development and determine if your child and family are eligible for early intervention.

If eligible, you and your local Infants and Toddlers Program will develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), with one *or* several services to meet the unique needs of your child and family.

Your local Infants and Toddlers Program can also provide information about family support services such as the **Family Support Network**, which links families to workshops, advocacy organizations, and support groups for families of children with developmental disabilities.

Who Is Eligible

Your child and family may be eligible for early intervention if your child is under 3 years of age *and* has at least one of the following:

- A delay of 25 percent or more in development, *or*
- A diagnosed condition that is likely to affect development, such as a birth weight of less than 1,200 grams, a genetic disorder, or severe vision or hearing impairment, *or*
- Is developing in a way that is considered 'atypical' for most children his or her age.

As you begin the early intervention process, remember that family involvement is linked to positive developmental and educational outcomes for children. Contact the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program for more information.