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 heath 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**

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.