

Guide for Physicians

When you or one of your families has a concern about an infant's or toddler's health or development, refer the family to *Early On*®.

Call us toll free at 1-800-Early-On (1-800-327-5966) or contact your local *Early On*® Coordinator.



www.1800EarlyOn.org

MICHIGAN
Department of
Education

The logo for the Michigan Department of Education, which consists of a circular emblem containing a stylized sun and wavy lines, similar to the Early On logo.

What is *Early On*[®] Michigan?

- Federally legislated early intervention for children birth to age 3 (Part C of IDEA Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).
- Support for families so that they may enhance the development of their children within their daily routines and activities.
- Based on a philosophy of family-centered care.
- Evaluation of the child's developmental strengths and needs, provided at no cost to the family.

When do I refer to *Early On*?

- Whenever there is a concern, either by a physician or the parent.

and/or

- When the family has a child with an "established condition" (a diagnosed physical or mental condition with a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay).

What happens when I refer?

- Within 45 days of referral, with parental consent, a developmental evaluation, developmental history, and family interview are conducted. The developmental evaluation includes: social-emotional, adaptive, gross and fine motor, communication, and cognitive domains.
- The child's health and physical status are also important to consider. Physicians are asked to share a recent health appraisal report, including vision and hearing, with consent of the family, as part of *Early On* eligibility determination.
- After evaluation, the child's eligibility status is discussed with the family.
- Participation in *Early On* is voluntary.



Who is eligible for *Early On*?

An infant or toddler (birth to 36 months) may be eligible under **either** of the following two categories: developmental delay **or** established condition.

If there is a **developmental delay** in one or more of the following domains:

- Physical, including Hearing and Vision
- Gross or Fine Motor Skills
- Communication
- Cognitive
- Social/Emotional
- Adaptive (Self-Help)

If there is an "**established condition**" (diagnosed physical or mental condition with a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay), e.g.:

- Chromosomal Anomalies/Genetic Disorders
- Neurological disorders
- Congenital malformations
- Inborn errors of metabolism
- Sensory disorders
- Atypical developmental disorders
- Severe toxic exposure
- Chronic illnesses
- Severe infectious diseases

What happens when the child is eligible?

- Service coordination
- Based on the family's needs and priorities, and coordinated with community agencies, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is written with services that may include:
 - Physician, occupational, speech therapy
 - Family training, counseling, home visits
 - Nursing
 - Special instructional (teaching)
 - Social work
 - Psychological
 - Nutrition
 - Vision
 - Transportation to early intervention services
 - Assistive technology devices
 - Audiology
 - Medical services (for diagnosis and evaluation)
 - Other non-*Early On* informal supports: parent-to-parent support; respite care; parent/child playgroups
- Plus response back to you on eligibility/ineligibility and/or copy of IFSP, with signed consent from the family

Early Childhood Outcomes

The federal government requires *Early On*[®] Michigan to measure three child outcomes.

The goal of early intervention is “To enable young children to be active and successful participants during the early childhood years and in the future in a variety of settings...”

Accomplishments in the various dimensions of each outcome area move a child toward the goal. The child outcomes are measured by the percentage of infants and toddlers in *Early On* who demonstrate improved functioning in the following areas:

1. Having positive social relationships.
2. Acquiring and using knowledge and skills.
3. Taking appropriate action to meet their needs.

For more information about Child Outcomes, visit www.eotta.ccrea.org or call (866) 334-KIDS.

How can physicians support the family as a medical provider?

With permission from the family:

- Refer to *Early On* when there is a concern.
- Provide the health report, including vision and hearing.
- Provide consultation regarding what is best for the family/child.
- Update the Service Coordinator when priorities change.



Don't worry. But don't wait.





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