



Referring Infants to Early Intervention Services

Infants and toddlers may be eligible* if they meet one of the following criteria:

HIGH RISK FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY: *Infants can be immediately referred for early intervention services when identified with two or more of the following factors:*

- Prematurity of less than 32 weeks gestational age/birthweight less than 1500 grams
- Assisted ventilation for 48 hours or longer during first 28 days of life
- Small for gestational age: below the third percentile
- Asphyxia neonatorum associated with a 5 min Apgar score of 0 to 5
- Severe & persistent metabolic abnormality (e.g., hypoglycemia, acidemia, hyperbilirubinemia)
- Neonatal seizures or nonfebrile seizures during the first three years of life
- Central nervous system lesion or abnormality
- Central nervous system infection
- Biomedical insult (e.g., injury, accident or illness which may seriously or permanently affect developmental outcome)
- Multiple congenital anomalies or genetic disorders which may affect developmental outcome
- Prenatal exposure to known teratogens
- Prenatal substance exposure, positive infant neonatal toxicology screen or symptomatic neonatal toxicity or withdrawal
- Clinically significant failure to thrive (e.g., weight persistently below the third percentile for age or less than 85% of ideal weight for age and/or acute weight loss or failure to gain weight with the loss of two or more major percentiles on the growth curve)
- Persistent hypotonia or hypertonia, beyond that associated with a known diagnostic condition

High risk for developmental disability also exists when a multidisciplinary team determines that the parent of the infant or toddler is a person with developmental disability and the infant or toddler requires early intervention services based on evaluation and assessment.

ESTABLISHED RISK CONDITION

- Known etiology has high probability of resulting in developmental delay or conditions with established harmful developmental consequences OR
- Low incidence disability (e.g., vision impairment, hearing impairment, severe orthopedic impairment)

DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY** in one or more areas:

- Cognitive;
- Physical: including fine and gross motor, vision, and hearing;
- Communication;
- Social or emotional;
- Adaptive.

To find early intervention services in a family's local area, go to: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start/family-resource-center/regional-center-early-start-intake-and-family-resource-centers/>

You may also call 800/515-BABY or email DDS at earlystart@dds.ca.gov

* Eligibility conditions listed are not necessarily exhaustive. If there are any concerns regarding an infant's or toddler's development, please contact your local regional center.

**A significant difference between the expected level of development for their age and their current level of functioning.