

PARENTS GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING EARLY INTERVENTION



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HOW DO I KNOW MY CHILD NEEDS EARLY INTERVENTION?

- Child from birth to 3 years old are not meeting a typical developmental milestone or have a disability:
 - Walking, playing, talking, interacting with peers.



BENEFITS OF EARLY INTERVENTION WITH AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

- Helps build relationships with child and caregiver.
- Increase the child's independence, social skills, school readiness, parental empowerment, and well-being.



WAYS IN WHICH EARLY INTERVENTION CAN HELP A CHILD

- Activities of Daily Living
 - Dressing themselves.
 - Socializing.
 - Eating and feeding themselves.
 - Education. (pre-literacy; physical, social, and emotional development)



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES PARENTS SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR

2 months old

- Holds head up when on tummy.
- Looks at your face.

4 months old

- Turns head towards sound of your voice.
- Pushes up onto forearms when on tummy.

9 months old

- Sits without support.
- Shows several facial expressions.

15 months old

- Takes a few steps.
- Shows you affection.

2 years old

- Says at least two words together.
- Runs.

4 years old

- Holds crayon between fingers and thumb
- Says sentences with four or more words.



HEALTHCARE WORKERS GUIDE TO EARLY INTERVENTION

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HOW DOES EARLY INTERVENTION RELATE TO OT PRACTICE?

- Client-Centered Care
- Holistic Approach
- Acceptance of Diversity
- Advocation
- Technology
- Collaboration



SUGGESTED THERAPEUTIC APPROACH FOR EARLY INTERVENTION

- Family-Centered Philosophy:
 - Collaboration with family members including evaluation, intervention, and outcome.
 - Evidence-based interventions that is individualized to each family.
 - Culturally responsive.



IMPORTANCE OF UTILIZING DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING & MONITORING

- Developmental screening takes place in order to determine any developmental delays a child may have. If a child is not meeting appropriate milestones as he or she ages, the child would be eligible to receive occupational therapy.
 - Children who receive developmental screening and monitoring are most likely to receive early intervention services.

DEVELOPMENTAL SUREVEILLANCE STEPS

Developmental Monitoring

- Birth to 5 years old.
- Occurs alongside caregivers.

Developmental Screening

- 9, 18, 30 months old.
- Autism Specific Screening:
 - 18, 24 months old

Developmental Evaluation

- Utilized to determine the specific treatment that would benefit the child through the early intervention program.

IMPACT ON PATIENT QUALITY OF LIFE

- Increased Independence
- Improved Functionality
- Fulfilling Life
- Enhanced Well-being
- Increased Confidence
- Better Relationships

