

# 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*<sup>®</sup>.

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



[1800EarlyOn.org](http://1800EarlyOn.org)



## What is *Early On* Michigan?

- Federally legislated early intervention for children birth to 36 months (Part C of the 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 a parent, about a child's development.

**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, physical (including gross and fine motor), communication, and cognitive domains.
- The child's health and physical status are critical to the developmental evaluation. 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.
- The family may give permission to share information back to and/or with the physician.



## Who is eligible for *Early On*?

An infant or toddler (birth to 36 months) may be eligible under **either** of the following two categories: a 20 percent developmental delay **or** an established condition.

If there is a 20 percent **developmental delay** in one or more of the following domains:

- Cognitive
- Communication
- Social/Emotional
- Adaptive/Self-Help
- Physical, including Vision and Hearing

**OR**

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

- Congenital Anomalies
- Chromosomal Anomalies
- Infectious Conditions
- Endocrine/Metabolic Disorders
- Other Diseases
- Hearing Deficiency
- Other Fetal/Placental Anomalies
- Exposures Affecting Fetus
- Chronic Illness
- Developmental Disorders
- Mental Health Conditions

## 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:
  - Physical, 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 (for diagnosis and evaluation)
  - Other non-*Early On* informal supports: parent-to-parent support; respite care; parent/child playgroups

**For additional information about a child's eligibility, contact the local *Early On* Coordinator found under the "About" section at [1800EarlyOn.org](http://1800EarlyOn.org).**

## 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 move a child toward the goal. 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 [1800EarlyOn.org](http://1800EarlyOn.org) or call (866) 334-KIDS.

# How can a physician or medical provider support a family?

## When a family expresses concern:

- Refer to *Early On* when you or the family have a concern about the child's development.

## Communicate with *Early On*:

- 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.



Scan this QR Code using an app on any smartphone or tablet.  
Or, type [1800EarlyOn.org](http://1800EarlyOn.org) into any web browser to view  
additional information and forms related to *Early On*<sup>®</sup>.



[facebook.com/EarlyOnMichigan](https://facebook.com/EarlyOnMichigan)



[twitter.com/ChildFindMich](https://twitter.com/ChildFindMich)



[google.com/+1800earlyonOrg](https://google.com/+1800earlyonOrg)



Ver. 6: November 2014

This document was produced and distributed through an IDEA Mandated Activities Project, *Early On*<sup>®</sup> Public Awareness, awarded by the Michigan Department of Education at a cost of \$0.11. per brochure. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Michigan Department of Education, Michigan State Board of Education, or the U.S. Department of Education, and no endorsement is inferred. This document is in the public domain and may be copied for further distribution when proper credit is given. For further information or inquiries about this project, contact the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909.