



Medical Home Newsletter

Baby Watch/Early Intervention

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<http://medhome.med.utah.edu>

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Welcome

The purpose of this publication is to support health care providers in the establishment and maintenance of Medical Homes for their pediatric patients by providing tools and information for use in their practices.

To offer comments, suggest ideas for future newsletters, or to sign up for email delivery contact the Project Coordinator, Barbara Ward, RN BS bward@utah.gov

Copies of newsletters may be found on the Utah Medical Home web portal:
<http://medhome.med.utah.edu/>

The Medical Home and Early Intervention Partnership

“Early identification of children with developmental delays is important in the primary care setting. The pediatrician is the best-informed professional with whom many families have contact during the first 5 years of a child's life. Parents look to the pediatrician to be the expert not only on childhood illnesses but also on development. Early intervention services for children from birth to 3 years of age and early childhood education services for children 3 to 5 years of age are widely available for children with developmental delays or disabilities...”
AAP Policy (RE0062) *Pediatrics*, Volume 108, Number 1 July 2001, pp192-196.

To assist pediatricians, the Utah Pediatric Partnership to Improve Healthcare Quality (UPIQ) is focusing their current project on the use of standardized tools to screen for developmental delay and on streamlining the referral process. Information on screening and referral for children with developmental delay can soon be found on the Utah MedHome Portal: <http://medhome.med.utah.edu>.

Early Intervention (E.I.) - the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

In 1997, an amendment to IDEA mandated early identification and intervention for children with special health care needs and through the development of a community-based service system (Part C). To meet this mandate, federal financial assistance was granted to states to develop a system to deliver interagency, multidisciplinary services for all eligible children. In Utah, the Department of Health is the lead agency for early intervention services (Baby Watch Early Intervention Program) and provides oversight and federal compliance monitoring of the system. Baby Watch contracts with 15 programs statewide to offer services to infants and toddlers up to age three and their families. These local programs are responsible for finding and providing services for children from birth to three years with developmental delays or disabilities

Who is Eligible for Early Intervention?

Eligibility is determined in one of two ways:

1. Standardized Assessment
A child is eligible if they score 1.5 standard deviations at or below the mean, or at or below the 7th percentile in one or more areas of development.
2. Diagnosis
Early Intervention has a list of diagnosis that automatically qualifies a child for services. The program must have documentation of the diagnosis. For a current list of qualifying diagnosis go to this website.
http://www.utahbabywatch.org/agencyinfo/Diagnosis_List.htm

Informed Clinical Opinion:
Clinical opinion is used when concerns

are in difficult to measure aspects of development, such as poor feeding skills, or low or high muscle tone in infants. Parent concerns are considered and medical records reviewed. Two or more professionals who have knowledge and expertise in the area of concern must establish an “informed clinical opinion”

The Referral and Evaluation Process

Once a referral is received, the service coordinator schedules an appointment with the family to obtain information and describe the services, resources, and evaluation process. A multidisciplinary evaluation is then scheduled to focus on specific child development skills. Qualified personnel use a variety of standardized and non-standardized instruments to assess cognitive, language, motor, social, emotional, behavioral and self-help skills. The evaluation process includes a complete assessment of the family’s “concerns, priorities, and resources” (CPR’s). Evaluation and assessment services are provided at no cost to the family.

During the initial evaluation, the service coordinator will be requesting **information from the Medical Home provider including well child visit records, vision, hearing, and developmental testing.** Federal Regulations state the evaluation and assessment process must be completed within 45 days of the referral. Health information provided by the Medical Home is essential to help the early intervention team assess levels of functioning and eligibility of the infant/toddler.

The IFSP

Following the initial assessment and eligibility determination, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed with input from the family, early intervention program staff, and, when appropriate, a hearing and vision specialist from the Parent Infant Program (PIP) at the School for the Deaf and Blind. Families are key in planning a program

for their infant/toddler. The IFSP team uses the assessment process to determine the location, frequency, intensity, and duration of services to be provided. The child’s current level of functioning is documented and outcomes are written for each identified need. The team develops strategies to meet the outcomes and a re-evaluation date is set for a six-month review. The IFSP is reevaluated each year but can be revised at any time if the child’s needs change.

Who Pays for Services?

State and Federal agencies are responsible to provide specific services with no charge to the family. These include:

- Child Find and Referral
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) Development and Review
- Procedural Safeguards (Family Rights)
- Service Coordination

For all other services there is a sliding fee scale that determines the amount a family may have to pay. Medicaid can be a designated payer.

What Services are Provided?

Examples of early intervention services include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, special instruction, nutritional services, nursing services and family training. All early intervention therapists and home visitors have a special Early Intervention Credential above and beyond their professional license or certification.

Where are Services Provided?

Children are served according to the strategies and aimed at the outcomes described in the IFSP. The service providers use activities in natural learning environments that meet the child’s changing needs and promote functional skills, development, and learning. These environments may include the family’s home,

child care center, play group, or at a local community activity.

How do I contact my local Early Intervention Provider?

To learn more about the Early Intervention Program or to refer a child for an evaluation call the Baby Watch Information and Referral Line at 1-800-961-4226 or 801-584-8226 or call your local program.

<http://www.utahbabywatch.org/>

Other Resources

For a chart of typical development from 1 month to 3years

<http://www.utahbabywatch.org/forparents/childdevelopment.htm>

For a Timeline on development

<http://talaris.org/>

For information on healthy emotional, behavioral and cognitive development

www.brightfutures.org

For developmental handouts for parents

<http://www.zerotothree.org/healthyminds>

Screeners

PEDS Parents Evaluation of Developmental Status
Information on detecting and addressing developmental and behavioral problems in children

<http://www.pedstest.com>

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire Screener for developmental delays during the first five years of life.

<http://www.brookespublishing.com/store/books/bricker-asq/>

For a comprehensive list of screening and assessment tools for social-emotional screening

<http://www.brookespublishing.com/store/books/bricker-asq/>

For a list of Utah Community Mental health Agencies

http://www.hsmh.utah.gov/community_centers.htm

Utah Association for Infant Mental Health

<http://www.hope.usu.edu/uaimh/index.asp>

First Signs® is dedicated to the early identification and intervention of children with developmental delays and disorders

<http://www.firstsigns.org/index.html>

Utah Early Intervention Providers

<u>Central Utah Health Dept</u> 435-896-5451 (Juab, Millard, Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne Counties)	<u>Provo Early Education Program</u> 801-374-4965 (Provo School District)
<u>Family Enrichment Center</u> 801-402-7309 (Davis County)	<u>Southeastern Utah Health Dept</u> 435-381-2252 (Carbon, Emery, Grand Counties)
<u>DDI Vantage</u> 801-266-3939 (Salt Lake/Granite School Dist., Tooele, Duchesne Counties)	<u>San Juan School District E.I.</u> 435-678-1222 (San Juan County)
<u>Up to 3</u> 435-797-2598 (Cache, Rich, Box Elder Counties)	<u>Summit County Health Dept. E.I.</u> 435-615-3925 (Summit, Wasatch Counties)
<u>Deaf/Blind Services</u> 801-629-4732 (Statewide Services)	<u>Southern Utah University E.I.</u> 435-586-6070 Beaver, Iron, Garfield, Kane Counties)
<u>Parent Infant Program</u> 801-629-4743 (Statewide Services)	<u>The Learning Center for Families</u> 435-673-5353 (Washington County)
<u>Child Development Center</u> 801-412-2510 (Jordan School District)	<u>PrimeTime 4 Kids</u> 435-789-5409 (Uintah, Daggett Counties)
<u>Kids On The Move</u> 801-221-9930 (Alpine School District)	<u>Weber School District E.I.</u> 801-626-2552 (Weber, Morgan Counties)
<u>Kids Who Count</u> 801-423-3000 (Nebo School District)	

For Information on early diagnosis and intervention for children with disorders of communicating and relating. Stanley Greenspan M.D.

<http://www.icdl.com/greenspa.html>

Special thanks to Janet Wade B.S Baby Watch Early Intervention