

“All infants and children should be screened for developmental delays”

– American Association of Pediatrics Policy Statement

Why Early Identification and Support?



he brain develops most rapidly during our first three years of life, providing a brief window of opportunity to detect developmental delays in children and address them before they become barriers to healthy development. A significant body of clinical research, conducted in the past ten years, identifies the enormous benefits of intervention services provided to a child during these formative years.

“Estimated lifetime costs of children born in 2000 with developmental disabilities exceeds \$67 billion”

- From CDC Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report 1/30/04



HOW CAN BABIES CAN'T WAIT HELP?



ime constraints, staff shortages and lack of funding can make following up on early signs of delays or disabilities difficult for doctors, but the biggest barrier to healthy child development is the ever-closing window of opportunity for successful intervention in children under three.

It is vital that infants and toddlers be connected to intervention services when they are at their most receptive. Babies Can't Wait can help.

Babies Can't Wait provides developmental evaluation, at no cost to the families, to determine whether children are eligible for the program due to developmental delays or disabilities.

For children who

are eligible, Babies Can't Wait works with the family to develop an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) that outlines desired child/family outcomes. The BCW program also provides service coordination to each eligible child and family, ensuring coordination of efforts and linking families with necessary resources and supports in their community.

WHEN SHOULD A REFERRAL BE MADE?

The best time to refer is at the earliest sign of a delay. We all know that children develop at different rates, but a “wait and see” approach progressively limits the benefits a child receives from later intervention supports, as developmental obstacles tend to increase in complexity and are harder to manage effectively as the child grows.

What Services Can BABIES CAN'T WAIT Provide for You and Your Families?

- Evaluation of children's development in the cognitive, socio-emotional, physical, adaptive/self-help and communication areas and identification of child/family strengths and needs.
- IFSP development and monitoring, working with families to develop individual outcomes which promote children's development and participation, as well as the supports needed to achieve those outcomes.
- A highly skilled staff of Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Early Childhood Educators, Speech and Language Pathologists, Nutritionist, Social Workers and others to help families and caregivers to, in turn, support their children's development and participation within typical family routines and activities.
- Individualized, comprehensive service coordination, monitoring changes to the IFSP, coordinating supports, and connecting families with resources and referrals in the community that meet family needs and benefit the child's development





What Is Babies Can't Wait?

Babies Can't Wait is Georgia's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.

It is a federally mandated program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which provides a framework for coordinating developmental, educational, and community supports within natural environments for children under three and their families. Babies Can't Wait, which is administered by the Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, has served Georgia's children since 1987.

Seventeen percent of US children have developmental disabilities, and many more experience delays in language or cognition, which have a significant impact school readiness. Less than 50% of these children are identified as having a problem before starting school, by which time significant delays may have occurred and opportunities for intervention have been missed. Babies Can't Wait needs to work closely with physicians and health care providers to identify these children during infancy so that children and their families may receive the supports they need.

<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw>

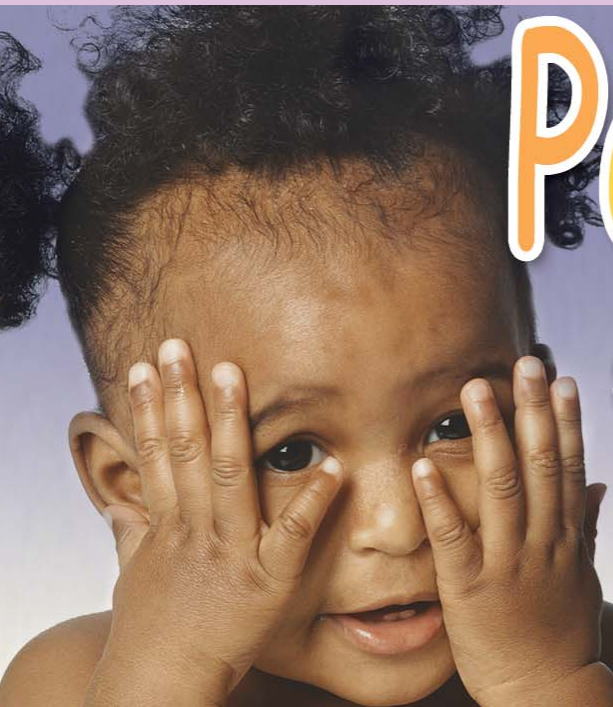
visit us on the web at:

OR

(toll-free 888-651-8224).

404-657-2726

For more information, contact your local BCW Early Intervention coordinator, or the State office at:



Peek-A-Boo...

See special developmental needs in your baby?



Early Detection Screening
...because **BABIES CAN'T WAIT.**

