early steps
Children's Medical Services

Referring Children Birth to 36 Months for free Developmental Evaluation

Children under 36 months of age who a physician determines may have a developmental delay, or who are diagnosed with a condition very likely to cause a delay, should be referred to Early Steps by the physician promptly.

It's easy to make a referral — just complete the Early Steps referral card provided with this information sheet and fax it to your local Early Steps office. This card serves three purposes and requires a physician signature:

1. It makes the referral to Early Steps;
2. It is the prescription needed to complete a developmental evaluation;
3. It serves as a certification of an established condition, e.g. Spina Bifida, if appropriate.

For more information, call Florida's Central Directory at **1-800-654-4440** to be connected to your local Early Steps office or visit **www.cms-kids.com** for a listing of local Early Steps locations.

Referring Children with Developmental Delays

Children referred to Early Steps due to a suspected developmental delay will be evaluated by a team of professional. Children determined to have a significant delay in one or more of the following areas are eligible for services:

- Adaptive/Self help
- Cognition
- Physical (gross motor or fine motor)
- Communication
- Social/Emotional

Referring Children with Developmental Delays

Children diagnosed with an established condition likely to result in a developmental delay are automatically eligible for services. If a diagnosis of an established condition is made, please provide the family with written confirmation of the diagnosis using the Early Steps referral form. Types of established conditions that automatically quality children include:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Birth weight of less than 1,200 grams
- Sensory impairment (vision/hearing)
- Severe attachment disorders
- Neurological disorders
- Genetic/Metabolic disorders

What is Early Steps?

Early Steps is a statewide system of early intervention services focused on parent education. Early Steps connect families with professional who teach them how to improve the development of their children through everyday activities.

Are there any fees For Early Steps' services?

Evaluations to determine eligibility are provided at no cost to families regardless of income. Early Steps services are funded through Medicaid, private insurance and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C. Families may be charged a co-pay for early intervention services based on their annual income.

If you suspect a child has a developmental delay… refer to Early Steps today!

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.