

The Early Intervention Process



PATHFINDER SERVICES OF ND

The Early Intervention process begins when anyone has concerns about a child's development. The child would be referred to the State's Early Intervention system, which can evaluate the child and determine if he or she has a developmental delay or is at risk.


Referral may happen before or at birth, when there is significant prematurity, very low birth weight, illness, or surgery soon after the child is born. Even before heading home from the hospital, a child's parents may be given a referral to their local Early Intervention office.

Some children may develop more slowly than others, experience setbacks, or develop in ways that seem different from their peers. For these children, a visit with a developmental pediatrician may lead to an Early Intervention referral. The referral may also come from a child care provider, nurse, family member, or a friend who notices that the child isn't meeting the normal "baby" milestones such as rolling over by a certain age, or sitting up, crawling, and speaking.

8 Steps



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 701.837.7500

 info@pathfinder-nd.org

 <http://pathfinder-nd.org>