

How do I use the “Look What I Do” Chart if my child was born early?

A full-term pregnancy is 40 weeks. To figure corrected age:

1. Note the number of weeks your baby was born early. For example, if your baby was born 5 weeks early, add 1 month (4 weeks) + 5 weeks = 2 months and 1 week (9 weeks).
2. Your child should do 1-month skills at age 2 months and 1 week.
3. Add the 5 weeks (or the number of weeks your child was born early) to each age level on the chart.

Sangamon County Department of Public Health and Community Resources

2833 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL

Phone: 217-535-3100

Fax: 217-793-3991

SERVICE COORDINATORS AND EXTENSIONS

Phone: 217-535-3100

Lisa McGlothlin (Program Manager),
Ext. 3763

Liane Baker-Hergenrother: Ext. 3780

Roberta Gaines: Ext. 3781

Jennifer Gardner: Ext. 3782

Angela Howe: Ext. 3783

Jo Volker: Ext. 3784

Tammie Rockford: Ext. 3789

Angie Linkey: Ext. 3788



Child and Family Connections

We Test and Find Services for Families with Children under Three



217-535-3100



What is Child and Family Connections?

Child and Family Connections is a state program. It helps families with children under the age of three. It provides a service coordinator to help them get prompt, family-centered help.

A service coordinator:

- Explains Early Intervention. It is best to test and provide services before the age of three. Then, the child can start school, ready to learn.
- Obtains reports and tests needed to qualify a child for services.
- Works with parents and providers to intake a family and write a plan of action. This is called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The child must meet program guidelines.
- Helps families choose and find needed testing and services.
- Monitors services and locates other resources if needed.
- Works with the Local Interagency Council (LIC) and local providers to fill gaps in services.

This program helps a child under the age of three with one or more of the following:

Delays in skills.

- Physical (moving skills) — lifts head, rolls, sits, crawls, walks
- Intellectual (thinking skills) — stacks rings, builds blocks, points to pictures
- Speech and language skills (talking skills) — babbles, says words, understands words and directions
- Visual (seeing skills) — follows and looks for objects and familiar people
- Hearing (listening skills) — by smiling, looking, and moving towards the voice
- Social & emotional (playing skills) — plays with people and toys, shows feelings (smiles, cries)
- Self-help skills — holds cup, feeds self, dresses self.

A doctor-diagnosed disability, for example:

- Cerebral palsy
- Down syndrome
- Spina bifida.

A birth weight of less than 2.2 pounds.

A family with at-risk concerns.

- Homeless
- Drug problems
- Alcohol problems

These may slow down a child's development.



This program offers the support of providers and other parents to help you meet your child's needs.

Early Intervention Services include, but are not limited to:

- Developmental therapy
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Family training
- Nutrition
- Counseling
- Hearing and vision
- Medical testing for a diagnosis
- Nursing
- Assistive technology devices and services
- Transportation to program services.

Over 4,000 service providers help Illinois families.

Why would you want to sign up for this program?

The earlier you identify a delay or disability, the better the chance that your child will reach his full potential. Early Intervention services can make a difference. You want the best for your child. Your child deserves to reach his or her full potential.

Who can refer a child?

Referrals come from

- Parents and relatives
- Doctors
- Day Cares
- Professionals.

They refer because they notice a delay in what a child can do. Or, they want a child tested.

Who pays for needed services stated in the IFSP plan?

- Government and family resources pay for services
- Health insurance, AllKids, and program funds pay fees.

Family fee is based on a sliding scale.

Call if you have any questions or concerns.

The call, intake and first tests are free.

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Look what I can do!

Check the skills your child can do.

1 month (4 weeks)

- Raise their head slightly when lying on their stomach
- Briefly watch objects
- Make noise in throat sounds

3 Months (12 weeks)

- Lift their head and chest when lying on their stomach
- Follow a moving person with their eyes
- Smile when someone speaks to them

6 months (24 weeks)

- Sit with little support
- Roll from back to stomach
- Move object from one hand to the other
- Turn when they hear a sound

9 months (36 weeks)

- Sit alone
- Crawl
- Say "mama" and "dada"
- Respond to name

12 Months (48 weeks)

- Pull up to standing position
- Nod head "yes"
- Say 2-3 words
- Pick up an object with thumb and finger

15 months

- Walk without help
- Drink from cup held by someone else
- Feed self using fingers
- Say 4 or 5 words

18 Months

- Walk (maybe run a bit)
- Use 5-10 words
- Understand simple directions
- Mark on paper with crayon

2 Years

- Kick a large ball
- Turn pages of a book
- Ask for items by name
- Use 2 or 3 words together ("more juice")

2-1/2 years

- Catch a large ball
- Jump
- String Beads
- Match pictures
- Enjoy and looks at books

Make sure your child keeps learned skills while adding new skills. If your child loses a skill or cannot do one or more skills, call Child and Family Connections at 217-535-3100.