

The CDC reports that 17% of U.S. children have developmental disabilities, and many more experience delays in language or cognition, which has a significant impact on 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 may have been missed.

BABIES CAN'T WAIT (BCW) is Georgia's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.

BABIES CAN'T WAIT works closely with physicians and healthcare providers to identify these children during infancy so that children and their families may receive the supports they need.

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.



Early Intervention Because...

Babies Can't Wait



To make a referral to Babies Can't Wait, contact Child Health Referrals at
(478) 751-6117
or for more information, call Babies Can't Wait,
(478) 745-9200

<http://dph.georgia.gov/Babies-Cant-Wait>



North Central Health District
201 Second Street, Suite 1100
Macon, GA 31201

"Our family will never be able to fully express the incredible help Babies Can't Wait has given not only for our son's development as an individual, but also in giving us a better set of tools with which to help him develop and address his needs."

— Lacy and Tim Hicks, Parents

478-751-6117 or (478) 745-9200



To make a referral to Babies Can't Wait, contact Child Health Referrals at (478) 751-6117 or for more information about Babies Can't Wait call (478) 745-9200

BABIES CAN'T WAIT (BCW) provides developmental evaluation, at no cost to families, to determine whether children are eligible for the program due to developmental delays or disabilities.

ELIGIBILITY: Children ages 0-36 months with developmental delays, developmental disabilities, and/or certain diagnosed conditions that have a high probability of resulting in delays are eligible to receive early intervention services.

EARLY INTERVENTION AND REFERRALS: The best time to refer is at the earliest sign of a delay. The brain develops most rapidly during the 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.

Anyone can make a referral to Babies Can't Wait, including but not limited to social workers, physicians, parents, childcare providers, teachers, and other pediatric clinicians.



SERVICES PROVIDED - A TEAM APPROACH: Babies Can't Wait provides services using a team approach. This approach promotes coordination between the family, the primary service provider, and other team members, including doctors.

A highly-skilled team of physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech/language pathologists, special instructors, service coordinators, and others work together with the child and the families to provide intervention services, training, resources, and referrals in the community that meets family needs and benefit the child's development.

Participation by families and caregivers is a very important part of the Babies Can't Wait program.

KNOW THE SIGNS. TAKE ACTION. As they grow, children are always learning new things. These are just some of the signs to look for at each stage of a child's early growth and development. Looking for early warning signs of childhood problems and obtaining follow-up care is one of the best ways of ensuring a child's healthy and age appropriate development.

At 3 months, does your baby:

- Use eyes to follow people/moving objects?
- Respond to loud sounds?
- Lift head while on stomach?
- Cry when hungry, wet or wants to be held

At 6 months, does your baby:

- Reach for toys and pick them up?
- Roll over (both ways)?
- Turn to the sound of your voice?
- Make sounds?

At 9 months, does your baby:

- Respond to their own name?
- Copy a variety of sounds?
- Pick up things with fingers?
- Know the difference between strangers and family?

At 12 months, does your baby:

- Pull self to standing position?
- Crawl on hands and knees?
- Wave bye-bye?
- Say 1 or 2 words such as "mama" and "dada?"

At 18 months, does your baby:

- Use 8-10 words that are understood?
- Feed self some food?
- Walk without help?
- Show different emotions (happy, sad, mad)?

At 24 months, does your baby:

- Use 2 word phrases such as "more milk?"
- Run?
- Point to eyes and nose when you name them?
- Copy behavior and actions of other people (adults, other children)?

At 36 months, does your baby:

- Know own name?
- Wash hands?
- Play with other children?
- Use 3-5 word sentences?

