



Collaborative of Muskegon County

What's Normal? What's Not?

The moment you hold your new born infant for the first time you realize how fragile and helpless he is and you may feel helpless yourself as think about how much he will need as he grows and develops. How will you know if she is developing on schedule? And what is the schedule? Is your child ahead or behind? Each child is unique and their developmental schedule may be faster or slower than others so comparisons to his siblings or friends may not be helpful. However, there are some developmental benchmarks you can use to measure growth.

Ask your doctor about Developmental Screening at your next well-baby visit.

To learn more about Developmental Stages visit these sites:

[Born Learning: Ages & Stages](#)

[CDC: Developmental Screening](#)

[Development Milestones](#)

For help in Muskegon County contact

[Early On](#)

Early On is a statewide early intervention system that provides a range of services to assist infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months who have developmental delays or established conditions that may lead to delays. The developmental needs of infants and toddlers are addressed through the collaborating efforts of several support systems in the community.

Phone: (231) 767-7253



“Don’t Worry. But don’t wait.”

Children do not always pay attention to schedules and benchmarks. They will develop at their own pace and you can’t always be sure if a child is just taking his own sweet time or if there is a developmental delay. Using developmental benchmarks will help you determine if your child is developing normally but if you have any concerns remember this motto from Early On: “Don’t Worry. But don’t wait.”

A developmental delay detected early may be highly treatable with early intervention and have no significant impact on the child’s success in life. Left untreated, a developmental delay could seriously impact all areas of development and limit your child’s ability to learn, play and be successful.

You may be worried about your child’s delayed speech. An early intervention may discover a hearing problem that can be treated.

You may be concerned that your child is not crawling. An early intervention may be a short course of physical therapy to teach you how to encourage gross motor skills.

Your toddler may not be interested in books and coloring. An early intervention may be correcting poor vision.

Unfortunately, not all developmental delays are that simple. 17% of all children have serious developmental problems that can affect their ability to learn and only 50% of these children are treated before they start school. Early detection and treatment increases the chances of success for these children dramatically.



And the good news is that evaluation is free and available for every child in Michigan. If you suspect that a child has a developmental delay contact [Project Find](http://ProjectFind.org). projectfindmichigan.org/
1-800-252-0052 TTY 517-668-2505

“All children will enter kindergarten safe, healthy, and eager to succeed in school and in life.”