

The first three years of a baby's life are the most important in his or her development.

Early intervention services, for children from birth to age three, can make a big difference for babies who may be developing more slowly than others.

Children who have both a vision and a hearing loss may be eligible for services through the Arkansas Department of Education, Project for Children with Deafblindness.

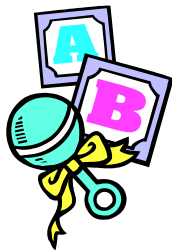


Many services are available free of charge. For more information, call 1-800-482-8437 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO to help you decide if your child might need early intervention services:

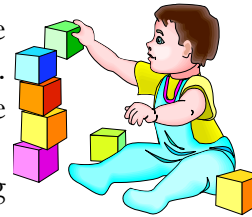
- Write down your concerns
- Watch your baby's behaviors over several weeks to see if there is a pattern
- Notice if your baby's responses (or lack of them) are consistent over this period
- Talk to your doctor



REMEMBER, NO ONE KNOWS YOUR CHILD LIKE YOU DO.

Your instincts about your child can be trusted and are worth the attention of a professional. So, if you think your baby may have a vision or hearing loss and you want to find out more about early intervention services, contact the Arkansas Special Education Resource Center (ASERC) at 1-800-482-8437.

Give your child the best start in life you can. The early years are the most important. Vision and hearing screenings and early intervention CAN make a difference!



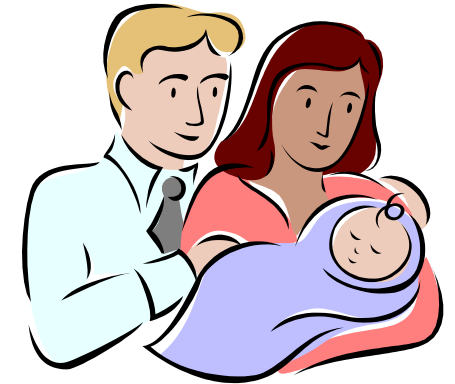
For more information about services for your baby, call toll-free 1-800-482-8437 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

This brochure was supported in whole or in part by the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, (Cooperative Agreement No. H326C990007). However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and no official endorsement by the Department should be inferred.

Note: There are no copyright restrictions on this document; however, please credit the source and support of federal funds when copying all or part of this material.



NOW THAT YOUR BABY IS HOME



Developed by:
Arkansas Children's Hospital
Arkansas Project for Children
with Deafblindness
Arkansas Transition Program
Educational Services for the Hearing Impaired
Educational Services for the Visually Impaired
Developmental Disabilities Services
Pulaski County Tri-District
Early Childhood Program
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF YOUR BABY CAN SEE AND HEAR?

The world looks and sounds very different to you. It is important to be aware of certain signs that might indicate a need for early intervention services for your child.



Now that your baby is home, watch for these behaviors:

VISION

Birth to three months:

- Responds to changes in lighting (becomes fussy in bright lights)
- Follows brightly-colored toys, objects or people with eyes
- Watches what goes on around him or her

Three to six months:

- Follows objects from left to right and top to bottom
- Bats, swipes, reaches and looks at hands
- Reaches for objects

Six to nine months:

- Moves toward favorite toy when seen
- Looks for dropped toys
- Watches activities around him or her



Nine to 12 months:

- Responds to smiles and voices of others
- Visually inspects toys held
- Looks around room

12 to 18 months:

- Often holds objects very close to eyes to inspect
- Points to objects or people using words “look” or “see”
- Looks for and identifies pictures in books

18 to 24 months:

- Occasionally looks at objects without needing to touch
- Watches own hand while scribbling
- Watches and imitates other children

HEARING

Birth to three months:

- Startles or cries at loud noises
- Stops moving and seems to listen to speech or sounds
- Stirs, wakes up or cries when someone talks or makes a noise



Three to six months:

- Calms at the sound of a familiar voice
- Looks in the direction of sounds
- Appears to listen

Six to nine months:

- Responds to his or her name
- Babbles and makes lots of different sounds
- Responds to “no”

Nine to 12 months:

- Turns or looks when name is called
- Listens to people talking
- Responds to simple commands like “give me,” “come here”

12 to 18 months:

- Points to objects or familiar people by name
- Imitates simple sounds or words
- Follows simple spoken directions

18 to 24 months:

- Hears your call from another room
- Hears TV or music at same loudness level as everyone else
- Hears quiet speech

If any of these behaviors is not present, your child may have a vision loss, a hearing loss or a combination of both. Please contact your doctor or local health department for a vision and/or hearing screening.

