

EARLY INTERVENTION

babies can't wait

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about one in six or 15 percent of U.S. children have developmental disabilities. It's estimated even more children experience delays in language or cognition, all of which have a significant impact on school readiness. The early identification of developmental concerns allows parents to seek intervention during the crucial period of early development.

BCW is Georgia's early intervention program for families of infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities. The program works closely with physicians and healthcare providers to identify children showing signs of developmental disability or delays during infancy so they and their families may receive the critical supports needed.

BCW IS A FEDERALLY REGULATED PROGRAM UNDER THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA). THIS SECTION OF THE LAW IS KNOWN AS PART C OF IDEA — A STATEWIDE, COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, INTER-AGENCY SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES. BCW WORKS TO COORDINATE DEVELOPMENTAL, EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WITHIN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3.

Babies Can't Wait

Early Intervention

Ages 0-36 months

Babies Can't Wait

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dph.georgia.gov/Babies-Cant-Wait

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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, and/or certain diagnosed conditions that have a high probability of resulting in delays are eligible to receive early intervention services regardless of income.

EARLY INTERVENTION AND REFERRALS:

The best time to refer is at the first sign of a delay. A child's brain develops most rapidly during the first three years of life. The critical window of opportunity to detect developmental delays in children and address them before they become barriers to healthy development, is very brief. There is no time to wait! Anyone can make a referral to Babies Can't Wait, including but not limited to parents, physicians, childcare providers, teachers, social workers and other pediatric clinicians.

WHAT DOES THE BCW PROGRAM DO?

As children grow, there are opportunities to learn in everything they do, especially routine tasks. BCW provides support and resources to assist family members and caregivers enhance children's cognitive and social development through everyday learning opportunities.

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH:

With a multidisciplinary team comprised of primary care physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech/language pathologists, special instructors, and service coordinators, BCW provides intervention services, training, resources, and referrals in the community that meet the family's needs and assist in the child's development. Active family participation is a vital component of the Babies Can't Wait program.

KNOW THE SIGNS. TAKE ACTION

The first three years of life is marked by incredible growth in all areas of a child's development.

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NEWBORN

Eats well
Turns to your voice
Sucks, swallows
+ breathes well

2

MONTHS

Smiles
Responds to sounds
Holds head up

4

MONTHS

Brings hands to mouth
Babbles
Responds to affection

6

MONTHS

Sits up without support
Plays with others

9

MONTHS

Picks up cereal O's
Understands "no"

12

MONTHS

Drinks from a cup
Waves "bye-bye"

15

MONTHS

Mimics your actions
Speaks 2-3 words

18

MONTHS

Points to 1 body part
Eats with a spoon

24

MONTHS

Kicks a ball
Speaks in short sentences

BCW has been serving Georgia's children and families since 1987. In a given year, BCW serves close to 18,000 children, with the number of referrals and children determined eligible for services increasing each year.

