



TLC Day Care

Early Intervention Referral Policy

This policy was designed so that everyone employed by TLC will have a general understanding of what early intervention is, when to refer, who to refer, and how:

Each and every child is different. That have different ways of learning, understanding, and developing. Even siblings with the same parents can develop differently. Therefore, before referring a child, we must observe and collect information to pass on to the parents and therapists. Negative behaviors can stem from environment (parenting) or genetics (learning disabilities).

Steps taken to refer a child:

- Observe the child for one week (what is the behavior, how often does the child do it and for how long?),
- Report to director,
Speak to parent,
- Ask for evaluation.

Why refer a child?

If a child is not reaching their milestones and skipping milestones, it usually means that something is wrong developmentally (see examples of milestones).

Early intervention will help them reach those milestones and develop anything missed. Early intervention can include physical, psychological, language, sensory, and fine motor.

When to be concerned and refer:

4 month old

- Cannot hold their head up
- Cannot lift head and chest when on stomach
- Does not make cooing sounds

10 month old

- Does not creep or crawl
- Does not babble
- Does not respond to name

14 month old

- Cannot walk with one hand held
- Can not pull to standing
- Does not talk at all

19 month old

- Does not have a vocabulary of 50 words or more
- Does not walk without help

2 year old

- Cannot communicate
- Cannot build a tower with four blocks
- Gets attention by biting, hitting, etc.

3 year old

- Does not use 3-5 word sentences
- Cannot follow simple directions
- Does not play with other children
- Does not show affection

Once a family is referred to early intervention, they may call the health department if the child is under 2.5 years old, or the school district if the child is over 2.5 years old. They will take information from the parent and then find an early intervention program that will observe and evaluate the child in the school setting, home, and play. The evaluation can take over one month, If they find that the child needs no services, then the parent can ask for a re-evaluation in three months.

The following information comes directly from the New York Department of Health:

3 months

At **three months** of age, most babies:

- turn their head toward bright colors and lights
- no longer “cross their eyes” while trying to focus. They move both their eyes in the same direction at one time.
- recognize bottle or breast
- respond to their mother’s voice
- make cooing sounds
- bring their hands together
- wiggle and kick their arms and legs
- lift their head while lying on their stomach
- become quiet in response to sound, especially to speech
- smile

6 months

At **six months** of age, most babies:

- follow moving objects with their eyes
- turn toward the source of normal sound
- reach for objects and pick them up
- switch toys from one hand to the other
- play with their toes
- help hold the bottle during feeding
- recognize familiar faces
- imitate speech sounds
- respond to soft sounds, especially talking
- roll over

12 months

At **12 months** of age, most babies:

- get to a sitting position
- pull to a standing position
- stand briefly without support
- crawl
- imitate adults using a cup or a telephone
- play peek-a-boo and patty-cake
- wave goodbye
- put objects in a container
- say at least one word
- make “ma-ma” or “da-da” sounds

18 months

At **18 months** of age, most children:

- like to push and pull objects
- say at least six words
- follow simple directions (“Bring the ball”)
- pull off their shoes, socks and mittens
- can point to a picture that you name in a book
- feed themselves
- make marks on paper with crayons
- walk without help
- walk backwards
- point, make sounds or try to use words to ask for things
- say “no,” shake their head or push away things they don’t want

2 years

At **two years** of age, most children:

- use two- to three-word sentences
- say about 50 words
- recognize familiar pictures
- kick a ball forward
- feed themselves with a spoon
- demand a lot of your attention
- turn two or three pages together
- like to imitate their parent
- identify their hair, eyes, ears and nose by pointing
- build a tower of four blocks
- show affection

3 years

At **three years** of age, most children:

- throw a ball overhand
- ride a tricycle
- put on their shoes
- open the door
- turn one page at a time
- play with other children for a few minutes
- repeat common rhymes
- use three- to five-word sentences
- name at least one color correctly