

# How to Refer to Family-Centered Early Supports and Services (FCSS)

Your early monitoring of children is crucial. If you determine, or even question a developmental delay or atypical development in a child under age three, please initiate a referral to ESS. (See eligibility criteria on back.) Early referral, even without a firm diagnosis, will insure the maximum benefits of early supports and services. Early referral also addresses important functional and parental support issues immediately.

## HOW TO REFER:

1. Inform the child's family/guardian of your concerns. You may want to explain your concerns with a script similar to one of these samples:

"Mr. Smith, I like to closely monitor the development of any child in my practice who has had early medical problems (e.g., prematurity). Our ESS program will help me do this. We would like to call them and have them get in touch with you. Would that be okay with you?"

...OR

"Mrs. Jones, I am a little concerned about one particular area of development. It's possible your child will outgrow these delays, but rather than wait and see I'd like to refer you to our local Early Supports and Services program. It offers excellent services to provide support (such as education and therapy) to you and your child. The program will assist us in monitoring your child's developmental progress and providing services if needed."

2. To make the referral, call your local Area Agency Intake Coordinator at:

3. When you call the ESS program, be ready to give this information:

- The child and parent's/guardian's name(s)
- Their current address (NH only)
- Their phone number
- Child's date of birth
- Reason for referral
- Insurance information (No family is denied services based on inability to pay or the type of insurance.)

Our ESS program exists to serve you and your patients. We are committed to contacting you with our findings. We hope to work together with you to provide exceptional support and services to all eligible families. Please do not hesitate to call with your questions.

# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

## Family-Centered Early Supports and Services (FCESS)

Family-Centered Early Supports and Services (Early Intervention) is available to all NH children, aged birth until three years of age, who meet any of the following criteria.

### ESTABLISHED CONDITION

A child with a **diagnosed physical or mental condition** which has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay, even when no delay exists at the time of referral. **Examples:**

- Chromosomal/genetic disorder (e.g., Down syndrome, cystic fibrosis)
- Metabolic disorder (maternal PKU, hypothyroidism)
- Congenital malformation (e.g., cleft palate, spina bifida, microcephaly)
- Severe infectious disease (congenital or acquired: rubella, HIV+, meningitis)
- Neurological disorder (CP, seizures, Tay Sachs)
- Severe attachment disorder (FTT, PDD/autism)
- Sensory impairment (vision loss or severe hearing loss)
- Diagnosis reflective of severe toxic exposure (fetal alcohol syndrome, lead poisoning)

### DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

A child who has one of more of the following **atypical behaviors** documented by qualified personnel and the family:

- Extreme fear or distress that does not respond to comforting by caregivers
- Self-injurious or extremely aggressive behaviors
- Extreme apathy
- Unusual/persistent inconsolable crying
- Chronic sleep disturbances
- Regressions in functioning
- Absence of pleasurable interest in adults/peers
- Inability to communicate emotional needs
- Persistent failure to initiate or respond to most social situations

- OR -

A child who has a **33% delay** in one or more of the following developmental areas:

- Physical development, including vision and/or hearing
- Cognitive development
- Communication development
- Social or emotional development
- Adaptive development

### AT RISK FOR SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

If **five or more factors** from either list below are present, a child is eligible for FCESS services:

#### CHILD FACTORS:

- Birth weight less than 1500 grams (3 lbs/5 oz.)
- Respiratory distress syndrome
- Gestational age less than 27 weeks or more than 44 weeks
- Asphyxia
- Nutritional problems that interfere with growth and development
- Intracranial hemorrhage, grade III or IV

#### PARENT FACTORS:

- Developmental disability
- Psychiatric disorder
- Family history of unstable housing
- Parental education of less than 10th grade
- Social isolation
- Substance addiction
- Age of either parent less than 18 years
- Parent/child interactional disturbances
- Founded child abuse/neglect