

Don't Wait to Get a Child Help!

The sooner a concern is identified, the sooner a child and family can receive services. If you think your child, or a child in your program, has special needs, ask for help right away. Don't wait until the child starts school. Getting help early can make a big difference in the child's development and readiness for Kindergarten. It may also prevent more serious problems later

Vision Red Flags

- Has reddened, watery eyes or crusty eyelids
- Rubs eyes frequently
- Closes one eye or tilts head when looking at an object
- Has difficulty following objects or looking at people when talked to
- Has difficulty focusing or making eye contact
- Usually holds books or objects very close to face or sits with face very close to television
- Has an eye or eyes that look crossed or turned, or eyes do not move together

Hearing Red Flags

- Has frequent earaches
- Has had many ear, nose, or throat infections
- Does not look where sounds or voices are coming from or react to loud noises
- Talks in a very loud or very low voice, or voice has an unusual sound
- Does not always respond when called from across a room even when it is for something that the child is usually interested in or likes
- Turns body so that the same ear is always turned toward a sound

What are Special Needs?

All children develop at different rates and in different ways, but some children are born with special needs. These special needs affect how a child grows and develops. Some children have developmental delays or difficulties right after birth and others develop delays a little later. It is important to provide early support so that a child can grow to his or her fullest potential.

Where to Find Help

If you have a concern about a child's development:

- Talk to your child care provider or preschool teacher
- Call your local school district
- Call the Special Education program at the Siskiyou County Office of Education (842-8432)

Your neighborhood district or County Office of Education can help you find out if the child qualifies for Special Education services. These services are confidential and do not cost anything. To use these services, parents/guardians must sign an agreement to have their child assessed.

Prepared by:

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Developmental Red Flags



For Children Ages Birth to 3

Knowing when to get help



The following list includes a sample of behaviors that suggest a birth to 3 year old child may need further evaluation. **All children exhibit some of these behaviors SOME of the time; they are only cause for concern if MANY of the red flags occur MOST of the time.** Children develop at their own pace. It is important to look for patterns, frequency, intensity and duration of behaviors when deciding if any behav-

Risk Factors

The following factors may place children at greater risk for health and developmental concerns:

- Prematurity or low birth weight
- Vision or hearing difficulties
- Prenatal exposure or other types of exposure to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco
- Poor nutrition or difficulties eating (lacks nutritious foods, vitamins, proteins or iron in diet)
- Exposure to lead-based paint (licking, eating, or sucking on lead-base painted doors, floors, furniture, toys, keys, etc.)
- Environmental factors, such as abuse or neglect

Language Development Red Flags

- By age three months, does not coo or smile
- By age six months, does not babble to get attention
- By age one, does not respond differently to words such as "night night" or "ball"
- By age one, does not say words to name people or objects, such as "mama" or "bottle," or shake head "no"
- By age two, does not point to or name objects or people to express wants or needs
- By age two, does not use two-word phrases, such as "want juice" or "mama go"
- By age three, does not try to say familiar rhymes or songs
- By age three, cannot follow simple directions



Social Development Red Flags

Some of the following behaviors may be cause for concern in any child regardless of age:

- Avoids being held, does not like being touched
- Resists being calmed, cannot be comforted
- Avoids or rarely makes eye contact with others
- By age four months, does not coo or smile when interacting with others
- By age one, does not play games such as peek-a-boo or pat-a-cake or wave bye-bye
- By age two, does not imitate parent or caregiver doing everyday things, such as washing dishes, cooking or brushing teeth
- By age three, does not play with others
- Acts aggressively on a regular basis, hurts self or others

Cognitive Development Red Flags

- By age one, has difficulty finding an object after seeing it hidden
- By age two, does not point to body parts when asked such questions as "Where's your nose?"
- By age three, does not play make-believe games
- By age three, does not understand ideas such as "more" or "one"

Gross and Fine Motor Development Red Flags

- Has stiff arms or legs
- Pushes away or arches back when held close or cuddled
- By age four months, does not hold head up
- By age six months, does not roll over
- By age one, does not sit up or creep using hands and knees, does not pick up small objects with finger and thumb.
- By age two, does not walk alone, has difficulty holding large crayons and scribbling
- By age three, shows poor coordination and falls or stumbles a lot when running, has difficulty turning pages in a book

