

"Babies born prematurely are incredibly resilient. In spite of a difficult beginning, positive outcomes are often seen when support is early, ongoing and focused on both the family's and baby's needs."

Richard C. Adams, MD
Developmental Pediatrician

Did your baby have an extended stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) due to complications?

Do you have questions about your baby's future developmental needs?

Would you like more information on ways to emotionally and physically bond with your baby?



The Risks

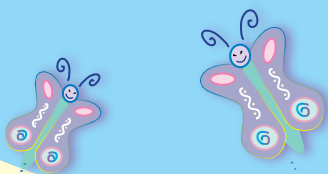
"Infants born too early are at higher risk than full-term babies for medical and developmental complications, which can affect the growing baby and family well into childhood."

New Perspectives on Premature Infants and their Parents, Zero to Three - November 2003, Vol. 24 No. 2

A Solution

Premature infants often require special care after leaving the NICU. Early intervention programs pay careful attention to your baby's ability to eat, sleep, make eye contact, and respond to your love and attention.

ECI-Help Starts Here



ECI, Early Childhood Intervention, supports families of premature infants through education, service coordination, family support and developmental services. Services may be provided by Early Intervention Specialists, speech, physical and occupational therapists, nurses and other ECI professionals. ECI staff work with families to include opportunities to help their children learn in their day-to-day activities.

ECI determines eligibility for infants and toddlers based on:

- ♥ Developmental Delays
- ♥ Medical Diagnoses
- ♥ Atypical Development

ECI provides follow-along services to premature infants who appear to be developing on track but who may be at risk for a delay in their growth and development. ECI will periodically contact the family to see if they have any questions regarding their baby's development or about their baby's emotional and social behaviors.

ECI is a statewide system of support and services for families of babies and toddlers, birth to three. ECI helps families help their children reach their potential.



Behaviors to watch for as I play and interact:



When I need a break, I may:

- ♥ Be irritable or fussy
- ♥ Appear unable to focus on faces or objects
- ♥ Avoid direct eye contact

To help me calm down and rest, you may:

- ♥ Dim or turn off lights
- ♥ Limit noises and sounds
- ♥ Hold me quietly and avoid eye contact

To calm myself, I may:

- ♥ Look away
- ♥ Bring my hands to my face or try sucking
- ♥ Get into a tucked position

When I want to play again, I may:

- ♥ Look at you, paying close attention
- ♥ Have bright, shiny eyes
- ♥ Smile or have a relaxed expression

If you have any questions or concerns about my development, talk with my doctor and my Early Childhood Intervention team.

My Doctor is: _____
Phone Number: _____

My ECI Program is: _____
Phone Number: _____

For information on child development or to locate your local ECI program call the DARS Inquiries Line:
1-800-628-5115 or
TDD/TYY 1-866-581-9328



Early is Best

Babies are unique little individuals. Some children may grow and develop new skills at a slower rate than other children their age. By getting help early, you can begin to help your child develop in ways that are appropriate for him or her.

Positive outcomes for the child and family are directly related to early referral and timely intervention.

Questions?

If you have questions or concerns about how your baby or toddler is growing and learning, talk to your doctor, or call ECI at:

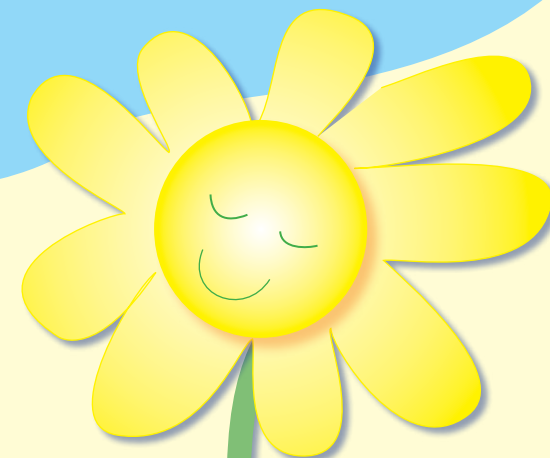
The DARS Inquiries Line
1-800-628-5115

The ECI TDD/TTY Line
1-866-581-9328

For wonderful resources and information visit our web site at:

www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis

The state agency responsible for ECI services is the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). DARS contracts with local ECI programs to provide services in every Texas county.



How's
Your
Preemie
Growing?

ECI Cares...

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Division for Early Childhood Intervention Services
4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78751

