

# What To Do While You Wait for a Developmental Evaluation

CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3



Your child's pediatrician has made a referral to Cincinnati Children's for an assessment with the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (DDBP). In most cases, developmental evaluations have several months' wait. We understand it can be difficult to wait for your scheduled appointment, and that you want to know how to help your child now.

There are services available right away to support your child. You do not need to see the developmental pediatrician first, these services can, and should, be started while you are waiting for your appointment.

Once a referral is placed, please wait 48 hours and then call 513-636-4611 to schedule.

## First Early Intervention

Children under the age of 3 may qualify for several services through your state's early intervention program. There is no cost to your family. In Ohio it is called Early Intervention and in Kentucky and Indiana, it is called First Steps. Call your state's organization or submit a request online to start the process. You do not need a referral, or a specific diagnosis to request services. If your child is close to their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, you should do this right away.

## Next Outpatient Therapy

Outpatient therapy is available at Cincinnati Children's and other local agencies. This is covered by most insurance plans. Your child may benefit from the following private therapies: speech, physical, occupational, and/or behavior therapy. Even prior to your visit with DDBP, we encourage you to ask your pediatrician about therapy referrals that fit your child's needs. A diagnosis from DDBP is not required to begin these therapies.

## Schedule Follow Ups

- Return to your pediatrician for developmental monitoring and to request referrals
- Hearing evaluation with an audiologist if your child has speech delay

## Contact

The Cincinnati Children's DDBP team looks forward to meeting your child and your family as soon as possible. For questions or additional support in the meantime, contact [DDBPFamilySupport@cchmc.org](mailto:DDBPFamilySupport@cchmc.org).