

The more you know about your child's growth and learning today, the more you can support their future success!

help me grow



FALL 2013

# Child Development News

for parents of young children

The Great Start Collaboratives in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties in collaboration with United Way for Southeastern Michigan are committed to ensuring that families are supported in helping their children learn and grow. You are receiving this email because you have completed the online Ages and Stages (ASQ) Developmental Screening tool for your child(ren). We hope you find the additional information useful!

## Could my child have a developmental delay?

Understanding your child's development in the early years is very important. Your child's early years include many developmental milestones for how he or she plays, learns, speaks and acts. As a parent, it is only natural to wonder if your child's development is on track.

In most cases, children reach each developmental milestone around the expected time. It is important to keep in mind that each child develops on his or her own timeline. Early identification is crucial in providing developmental support.

### What is a developmental delay?

Skills such as taking a first step, moving objects from one hand to another and using words are called developmental milestones. Children reach milestones in playing, learning, speaking, behaving, and moving. Professionals use the term developmental delay when a child is slow to reach certain milestones. [Here is a list of some expected milestones to be aware of.](#)

### What kinds of problems might I notice?

Most parents easily notice whether their child is "early" or "late" to reach gross motor skills, such as rolling over and walking. It is also important to take note of your child's fine motor skills, like picking up cereal off the high chair tray and passing a toy from one hand to another.

The area of language is another one to keep in mind. If at a certain age, your child has difficulty understanding the words and sentences or is unable to express him or herself by pointing and making sounds that can sometimes mean a language delay.

It is a good idea to become familiar with the [typical progression and timeline of a child's development.](#)

Keep in mind that if your child was born prematurely, he or she might need more time than other children their age to reach various developmental stages.



Questions?  
Call the Help Me  
Grow Hotline  
877-327-5966

Is there anything I can do if my child is slow to develop a new skill?

Yes! There is nothing wrong with helping your child learn new things and practicing those skills. When you have

understanding and ideas for activities, you are better able to support your child's development. This [Learn & Grow Activity Book](#) provides information about stages of child development and fun activities you can do together to help your child learn and grow.

*I have more questions or concerns. Who do I talk to?*

It is never too early to seek information and ask for help. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's development Help Me Grow is here to help. Simply call the **Help Me Grow Hotline** at **877-327-5966** and you will speak directly with a Child Development Care Coordinator who can connect you with local services, Early On or Project Find to help you and your child.

*\* \* \* \* \* Parent Resources \* \* \* \* \**

No one knows your child better than you. Parents are the primary source of nurturing and helping your little one grow during the first five years of life. Invest in your child's future now by learning what to expect about their developmental stages and health.

- Download the [Child Developmental Stages Guide](#)
- Download the [Social Emotional Health & School Readiness Guide](#)
- Get great ideas from the [Learn and Grow Together! Activities Book](#)
- Visit our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) Guide](#)
- Browse past editions of the [Help Me Grow E-Newsletter](#)

*\* \* \* \* \**



## REMINDER:

**Your next developmental questionnaire is available online!**

Remember to do an ASQ on your child every few months to update their development and learn new activities to do at home. Click the link below to access the questionnaire for your county:

[helpmegrow-mi.org](http://helpmegrow-mi.org)

Thank you to our partner:



United Way  
for Southeastern Michigan