

17% of U.S. children have developmental disabilities, and many more experience delays in language or cognition, which has a significant impact on school readiness. Less than 50% of these children are identified as having a problem before starting school, by which time significant delays may have occurred and opportunities for intervention may have been missed.

**BABIES CAN'T WAIT** works closely with physicians and healthcare providers to identify these children during infancy so that children and their families may receive the supports they need.

**BABIES CAN'T WAIT (BCW)** is Georgia's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.

It is a federally mandated program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which provides a framework for coordinating developmental, educational, and community supports within natural environments for children under three and their families.

**EASTER SEALS NORTH GEORGIA (ESNG)** is a local non-profit agency whose mission is to provide high-quality services to ensure that all children with disabilities or other special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work, and play in their communities.

ESNG oversees the Babies Can't Wait program for Gwinnett, Rockdale and Newton counties.

## ESNG BCW OFFICE:

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The Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health is the lead agency administering the Babies Can't Wait program in Georgia.



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GWINNETT, ROCKDALE & NEWTON



**BABIES CAN'T WAIT**

EARLY INTERVENTION  
BIRTH to THREE

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# EASTER SEALS NORTH GEORGIA BABIES CAN'T WAIT GWINNETT, ROCKDALE & NEWTON COUNTIES

## LEARN THE SIGNS. ACT EARLY.

As they grow, children are always learning new things. These are just some of the signs to look for at each stage of a child's early growth and development. Remember, children develop at their own speed. Looking for early warning signs of childhood problems and obtaining follow-up care is one of the best ways of ensuring a child's healthy, happy development.

### AT 3 MONTHS, DOES YOUR CHILD...

- turn head towards lights and bright colors?
- respond to loud sounds?
- wiggle and kick legs and arms?
- make sounds?
- lift head while on stomach?

### AT 6 MONTHS, DOES YOUR CHILD...

- follow moving object with eyes?
- reach for toys and pick them up?
- smile back at another person?
- roll over?
- play with feet?
- babble?
- help hold bottle while feeding?

### AT 9 MONTHS, DOES YOUR CHILD...

- sit up without help or support?
- say "mama" and "dada"?
- pick up things with fingers?
- crawl and try to stand up?

### AT 12 MONTHS, DOES YOUR CHILD...

- pull self to standing position?
- crawl on hands and knees?
- drink from a cup?
- use simple gestures - wave "bye-bye"?
- enjoy social play - such as peek-a-boo?
- say one or two words?

**BABIES CAN'T WAIT (BCW)** provides developmental evaluation, at no cost to the families, to determine whether children are eligible for the program due to developmental delays or disabilities.

### ELIGIBILITY:

Children ages 0-36 months with developmental delays, developmental disabilities, and/or certain diagnosed disabling conditions that have a high probability of resulting in delays are eligible to receive early intervention services.

### EARLY INTERVENTION AND REFERRALS:

The best time to refer is at the earliest sign of a delay. The brain develops most rapidly during the first three years of life, providing a brief window of opportunity to detect developmental delays in children and address them before they become barriers to healthy development.

Anyone can make a referral to Babies Can't Wait, including but not limited to social workers, physicians, parents, childcare providers, teachers, and other pediatric clinicians.

### SERVICES PROVIDED - A TEAM APPROACH:

Easter Seals North Georgia Babies Can't Wait provides services using a team approach. This approach promotes coordination between the family, the Primary Service Provider, and other team members, including physicians.

A highly-skilled team of Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech/Language Pathologists, Special Instructors, Service Coordinators, and others work together with the child and the family to provide direct intervention services, training, resources, and referrals in the community that meet family needs and benefit the child's development.

Participation by families and caregivers is a very important part of the Babies Can't Wait program.

### AT 18 MONTHS, DOES YOUR CHILD...

- pull off shoes?
- walk without help?
- use 8 to 10 words that are understood?
- turn pages in a book?
- like to look around?

### AT 24 MONTHS, DOES YOUR CHILD...

- use 2 to 4 word phrases?
- follow simple instructions?
- point to object or picture when named?
- play alone?
- stack blocks?

### AT 36 MONTHS, DOES YOUR CHILD...

- walk up steps?
- know own name?
- wash hands?
- play with other children?
- use the toilet?
- hop on one foot?
- open the door?
- name colors?

**TO MAKE A REFERRAL FOR BABIES CAN'T WAIT, CALL CHILDREN 1<sup>ST</sup> : 770.339.5048**