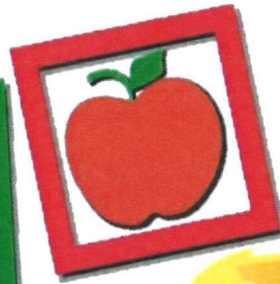


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Minnesota Help Me Grow Refer a Child



As you watch your child grow, you may become concerned about your child's development. While all young children grow and change at their own rate, sometimes you may have concerns that your child is developing differently than other children the same age as your child. Once a referral is made through Help Me Grow, the local school district will contact you to arrange for a screening or evaluation to determine if your child is eligible for Infant and Toddler Intervention or Preschool Special Education services in Minnesota.

Why is developmental screening important?

A referral through Help Me Grow as soon as developmental concerns are identified ensures the best outcomes possible. While every child is unique, children develop in certain, predictable ways, called developmental milestones. As a health care or childcare provider, your referral will assist early childhood experts in helping families identify how children are progressing and if they are in need of additional support. This helps families take the lead in seeking additional support or referring their child for a comprehensive, confidential screening or evaluation at no cost.

When to refer a child for early intervention services

All children develop and grow at their own pace, accomplishing certain tasks like beginning to talk or walk. There are certain concerns regarding a young child's development, often called red flags that are cause for immediate referral through Help Me Grow. You should also talk with your child's healthcare provider about your concerns.

Red flags for immediate referral

If a child shows any of the following signs, take immediate action and refer the child through Help Me Grow. You should also talk with your child's healthcare provider about your concerns.

- No babbling, pointing or other gestures by 12 months (1 year).
- No two-word phrases by 24 months (2 years).
- ANY loss of skills at any age.
- Diagnosed physical, cognitive or mental health condition or disorder that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay, regardless of whether the child has a demonstrated need or delay.
- Delays in meeting developmental milestones such as not walking by 18 months.
- Lack of eye contact.
- Poor balance, clumsiness or weakness.
- Speech is hard to understand for the child's age or compared to other children who are the same age.
- Vision or hearing problems.

Referring a child is easy!

There are three ways to refer in Minnesota: online, by phone or through the local school district.

- Refer helpmegrowmn.org
- Refer by phone at 1-866-693-GROW (4769).
- Refer directly to the school by calling the school district where child lives.