



Why Early Intervention Pays Off

Do you have concerns about your child's speech, language, hearing, or feeding/swallowing? Instead of waiting to see if your child *grows out of* what concerns you, seek help early for communication and/or feeding difficulties. **Doing so can:**

- ✓ **Maximize your child's success.** Treatment at any age is worthwhile, but earlier is almost always most effective. This can reduce the need for school-based services later on.
- ✓ **Save time and money.** It can take less time to treat a communication delay or disorder when families act on the early warning signs. Fewer treatment sessions can also mean fewer out-of-pocket expenses. Many early intervention programs offer free or low-cost services to children ages birth to 3 years and their families. They also can link you to other community supports.
- ✓ **Prepare your child for kindergarten.** What happens between birth and age 3 lays the foundation for kindergarten readiness. Strong speech, language, cognitive, and social skills are necessary for reading, writing, and academic success—as well as all the other demands of school.
- ✓ **Set your child on a course to school, social, and life success.** All families want what's best for their children. Acting early can have positive, long-lasting effects on your child's communication, social relationships, learning, and daily life activities well into adulthood.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's development, the time to act is right away! You can find more information about early intervention and scheduling an evaluation at www.asha.org/public/speech/early-intervention/.

