

What is Early Stages?

Early Stages is a DC Public Schools diagnostic center for children between the ages of 2 years 8 months and 5 years 10 months. We help identify any delays that a child may have and we arrange services to address them. These services are free and available to families that live in DC.

What services can Early Stages provide?

Children referred to Early Stages receive a developmental screening and, if necessary, a more in-depth evaluation. Generally, children are eligible for services if they have a developmental delay that will affect their learning.

Some of the services that Early Stages can recommend include:

- *Specialized Instruction*
- *Speech and Language Therapy*
- *Physical Therapy*
- *Occupational Therapy*
- *Psychological Services*
- *Behavior Support*

These services are coordinated and delivered through DC Public Schools.

What are the benefits of these services?

Research shows that the first five years of life are the most important to a child's development. Early identification and intervention can greatly improve education outcomes. Children who receive services at a young age demonstrate improved social, problem solving, communication and behavioral skills, which help them begin school ready to learn.



Who can make a referral to Early Stages?

- Parents/Caregivers
- Teachers/ Childcare Providers
- Doctors/Physician Assistants/Nurses
- Social Workers
- Other Professionals



What can I expect after I make a referral?

Once we receive a referral we require a parent or guardian's consent to proceed with the process.

Early Stages will contact you:

- 1) To confirm receipt of the referral.
- 2) To notify you if/when we have completed the developmental screening or reached the parent.
- 3) When we have closed the case.

If we receive the parent or guardian consent, we can share additional details of the child's case with you.

If you are concerned about a child's development, please don't hesitate to make a referral.

How can I learn more about Early Stages?

We are happy to meet with you one-on-one or with your organization to discuss the different ways that we can work together to serve children. The Child Find team is also available to give presentations to your staff about early intervention, special education, behavioral support and developmental screening. To schedule a meeting with Early Stages, please call 202-698-8037.



WHAT SHOULD I DO
when I have a concern about a
child?

INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONALS

What is the best way to make a referral to Early Stages?

Each organization should refer in the way that works best for them.

- Phone: 202-698-8037
- Fax: 202-654-6079
- Email: referral@earlystagesdc.org
- Online: www.earlystagesdc.org
- Contact your Child Find Field Coordinator

For children under 2 years 8 months, please call Strong Start, the DC Early Intervention Program, at 202-727-3665.

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