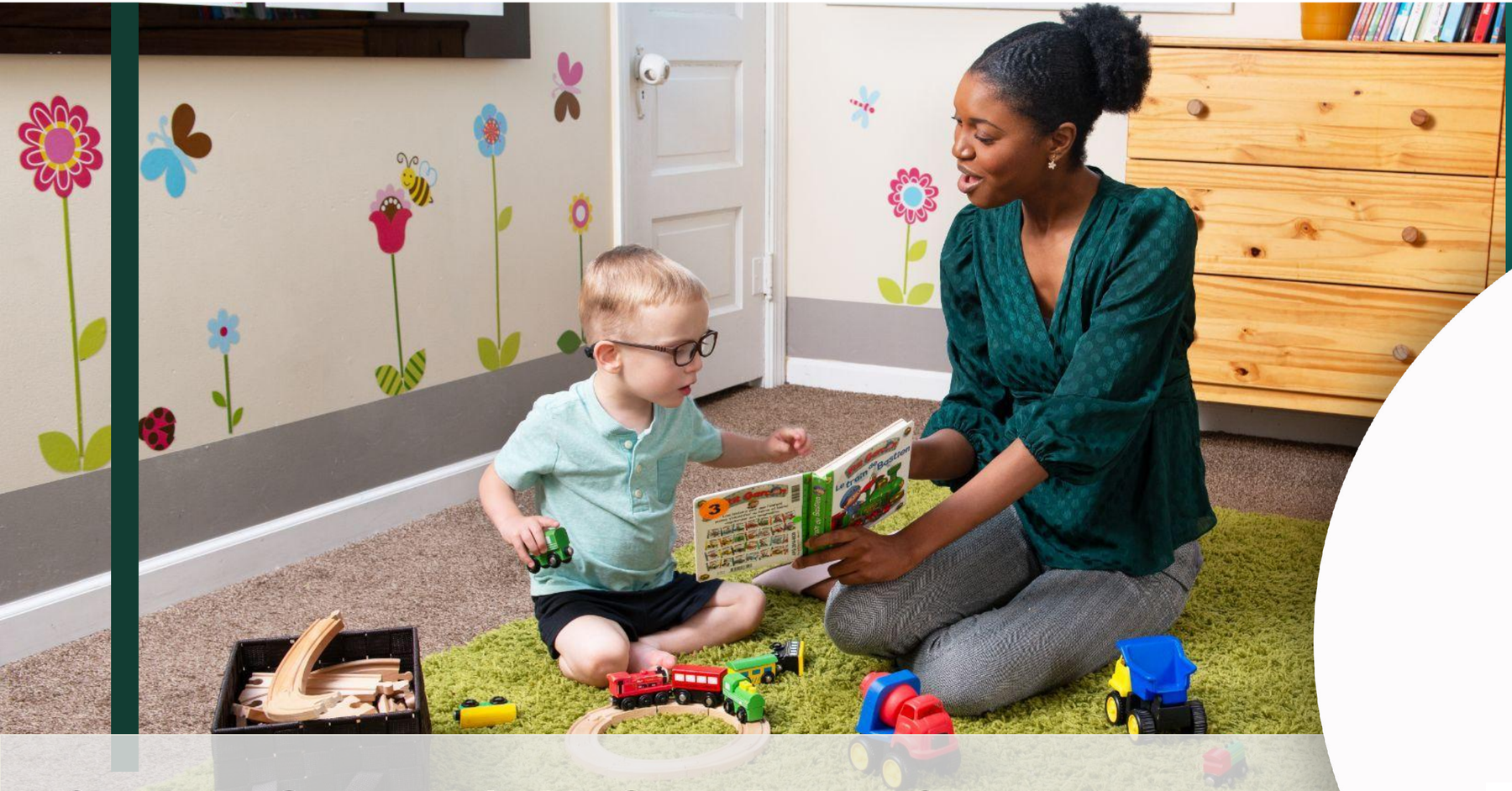
Early Intervention in Action: How *Early On*, Build Up & Help Me Grow Transform Children's Lives



Courtney Gupta, Help Me Grow Project Coordinator;
Jenny Koenigsknecht, *Public Awareness Supervisor, Early On Michigan*

early on MICHIGAN

build up

Help Me Grow Michigan

Learning Goals

- Build understanding about Michigan's early intervention system, *Early On and* Build Up Michigan
- Learn about Help Me Grow Michigan and the supports and resources available to families
- Gain knowledge about how to connect children and families to services
- Learn strategies to discuss developmental concerns with parents/caregivers



Michigan's Early Intervention System







Early On in Michigan

Purpose of Early Intervention

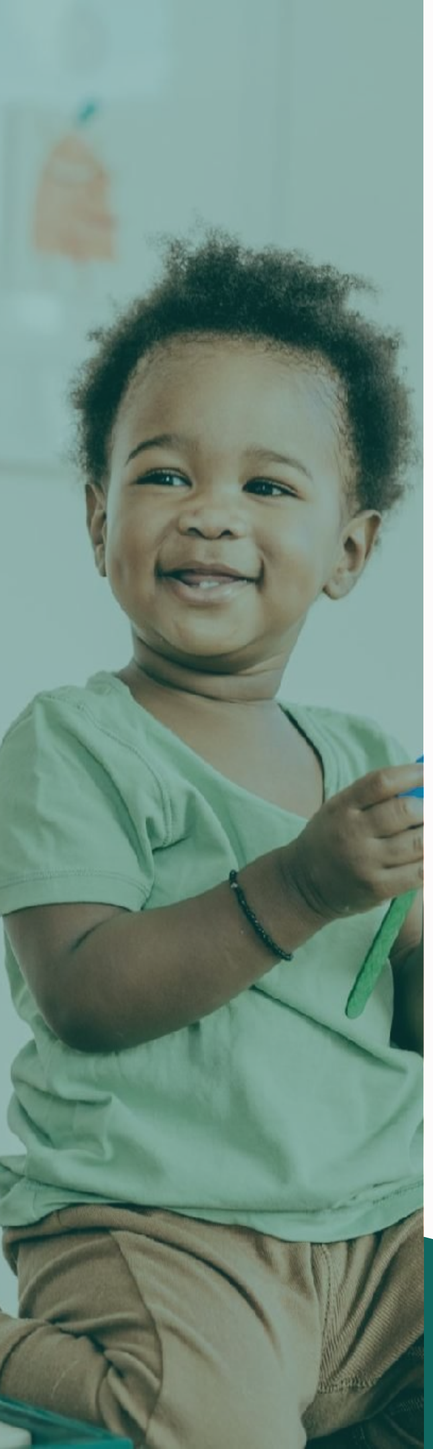
"To enable young children to be active and successful participants during the early childhood years and in the future in a variety of settings, in their homes, with their families, in child care, in preschool, and in the community."

Source: ECTA Center

What is *Early On*?

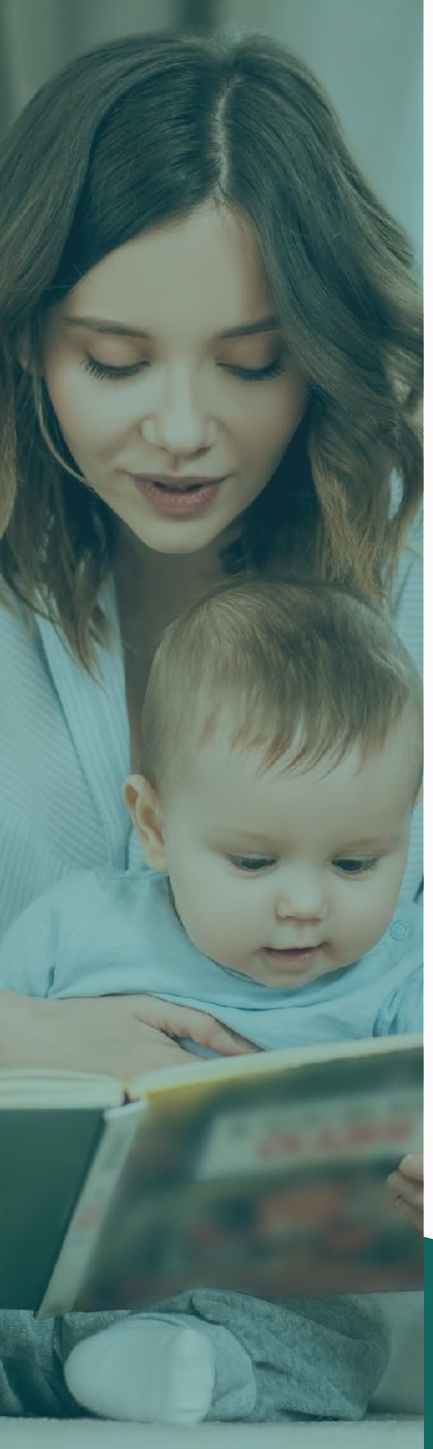
- A statewide system of early intervention services mandated by federal legislation & is implemented by local school districts or intermediate school districts.
- Designed to help families build the supports and services that will promote the development of their infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities.
- Provides early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers
- Some children also qualify for Michigan Mandatory Special Education.





Early On Services are:

- For children with a pre-existing condition or developmental delay from birth up to their 3rd birthday.
- Free & Voluntary
- Strength(s) based
- Family centered
- Focused on parent and professional partnerships
- Provided in natural environment (home, community, daycare, etc.)



Eligibility for *Early On* Services:

- *Early On* eligibility is determined after an evaluation is conducted
- Any infant or toddler with a pre-existing medical condition
  - *Early On* Established Conditions List
- Developmental delay

How Does *Early On* Define Developmental Delay?

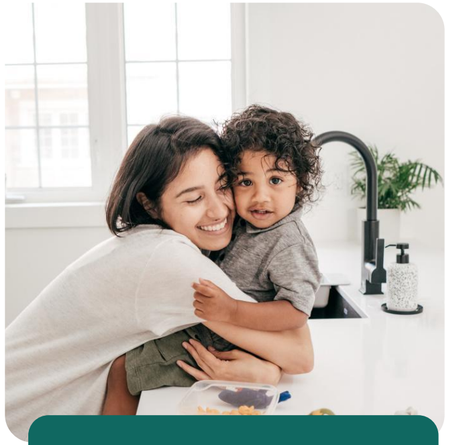
- <2 months of age: any delay

- 2-36 months of age: 20% delay, compared to same age peers, in any domain as determined by an evaluation
  - Cognitive (play and problem-solving skills)
  - Communication (understanding and talking skills)
  - Social/emotional (bonding and interaction)
  - Adaptive/self-help (feeding, dressing, bathing skills)
  - Physical (gross and fine motor, including hearing and vision)

When to Make a Referral to *Early On*?



If an established condition exists



When a parent/caregiver expresses concerns



When you have a concern about a child's development



When a developmental screening tool suggests a potential concern

What Happens After a Child is Referred to *Early On?*

1. Parent/caregiver is contacted within 10 days of *Early On* referral to schedule initial evaluation.

2. Evaluation and Individualized Family Service Plan completed within 45 days, if child qualifies.

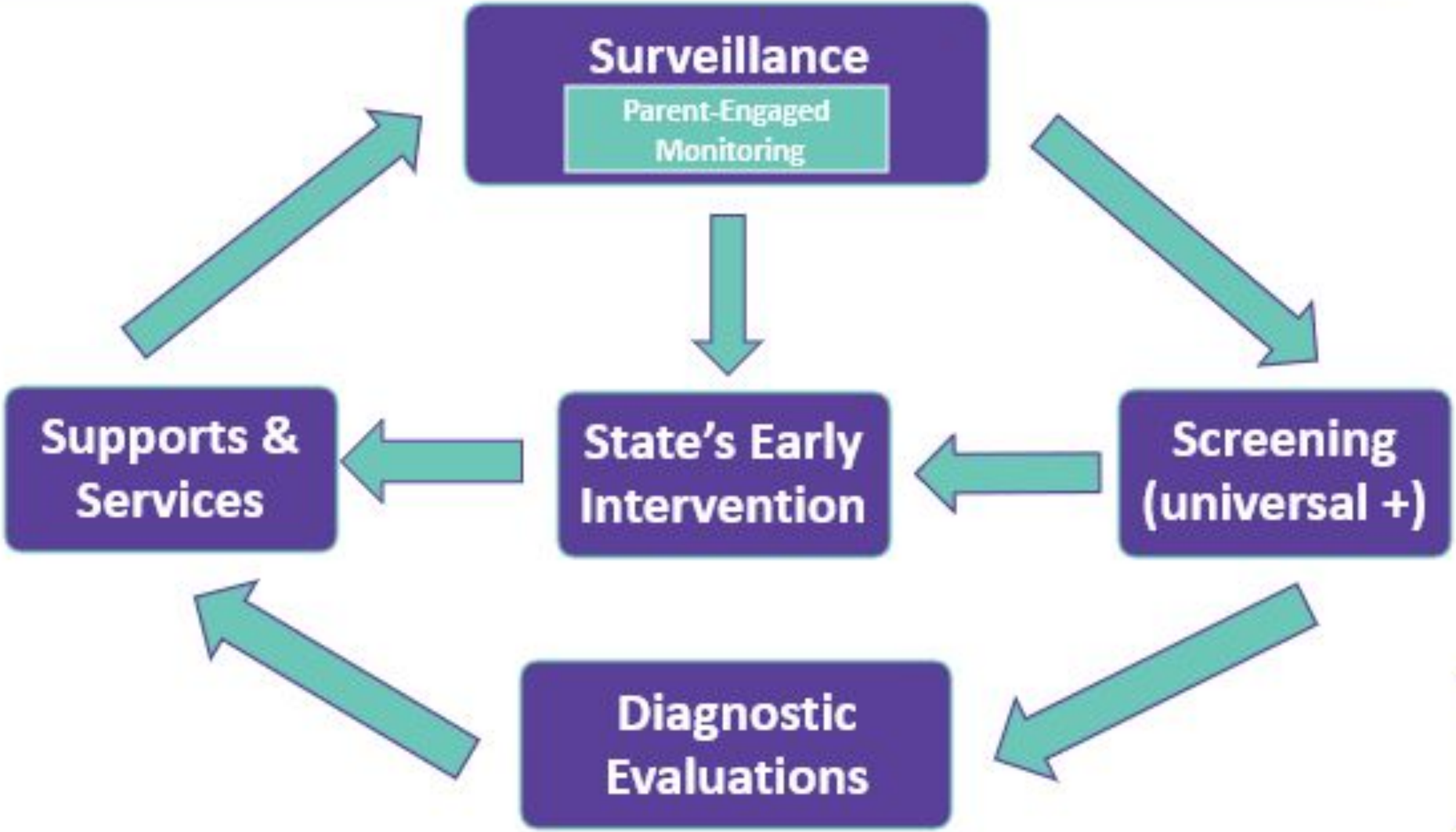
3. The Individualized Family Service Plan and progress towards achieving outcomes is reviewed at least every 6 months.

4. The Individualized Family Service Plan is updated on an annual basis.

5. Up to 9 months before a child turns three (between 27-33 months), a transition planning meeting is held



Early Identification & Intervention





Learn the Signs. Act Early. (LTSAE)

Purpose: To improve early identification of developmental delays and disabilities, including autism, by facilitating family-engaged developmental monitoring and promoting developmental screening so children and their families can get the services and support they need at the earliest age possible.

Materials



Strategy

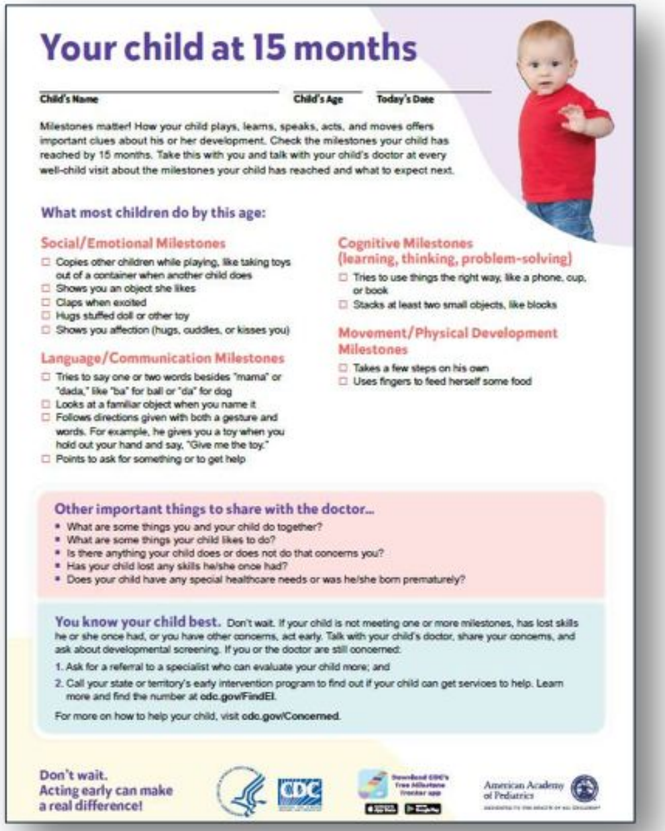




CDC's Milestone Resources

Health Communication Tools for Developmental Surveillance







www.cdc.gov/ActEarly/Materials

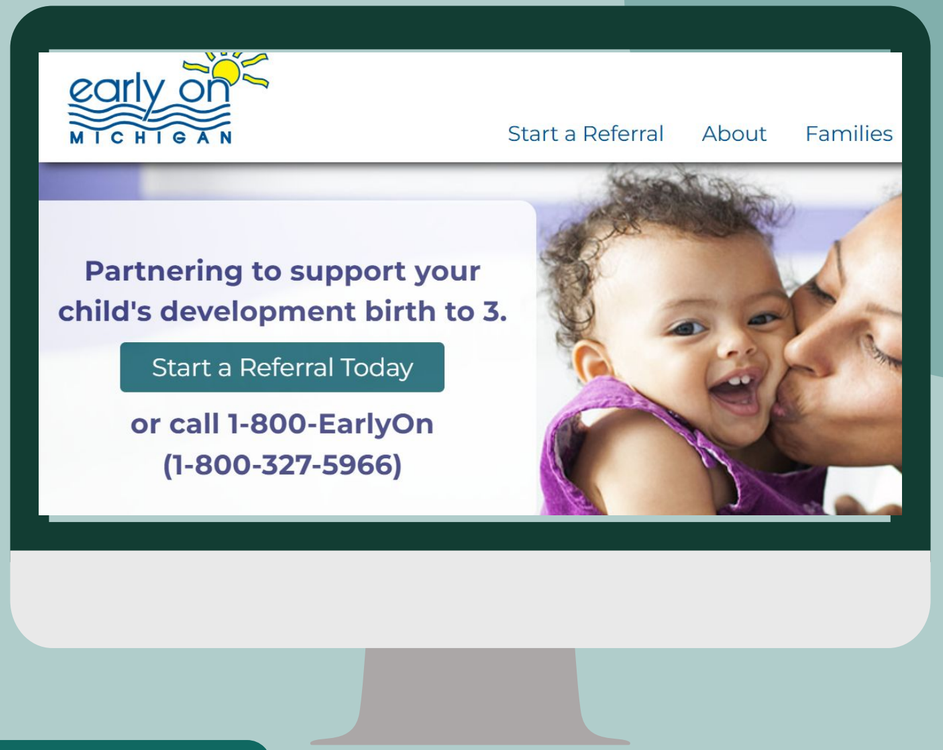
Normalize Talking about Milestones

- Create shared language about child development across partners
- Integrate milestone conversations into everyday touchpoints
- Support families in knowing what to expect at different ages
- Reduce stigma around developmental questions or concerns
- Strengthen early identification through consistent messaging



Who Can Make a Referral?

- Anyone can make a referral to *Early On*!
- Recommend that the family make the referral or provider can assist them.



How to Make a Referral to *Early On*:

- Online: www.1800earlyon.org
- By phone: 1-800-Early-On (1-800-327-5966)
- Contacting your local county *Early On* directly: https://eotta.ccresa.org/Contacts.php?id=1

Build Up Michigan



Preschool Special Education Services for 3-5

“Build Up is devoted to supporting the Child Find mandate of the Individuals with Disabilities Education ACT (IDEA). Build Up is a campaign that conducts targeted public awareness through statewide media, grassroots efforts, a traveling statewide display board and marketing. Build Up provides support to locate and identify young children ages 3 through 5, who maybe be in need of special education supports and/or services. ”

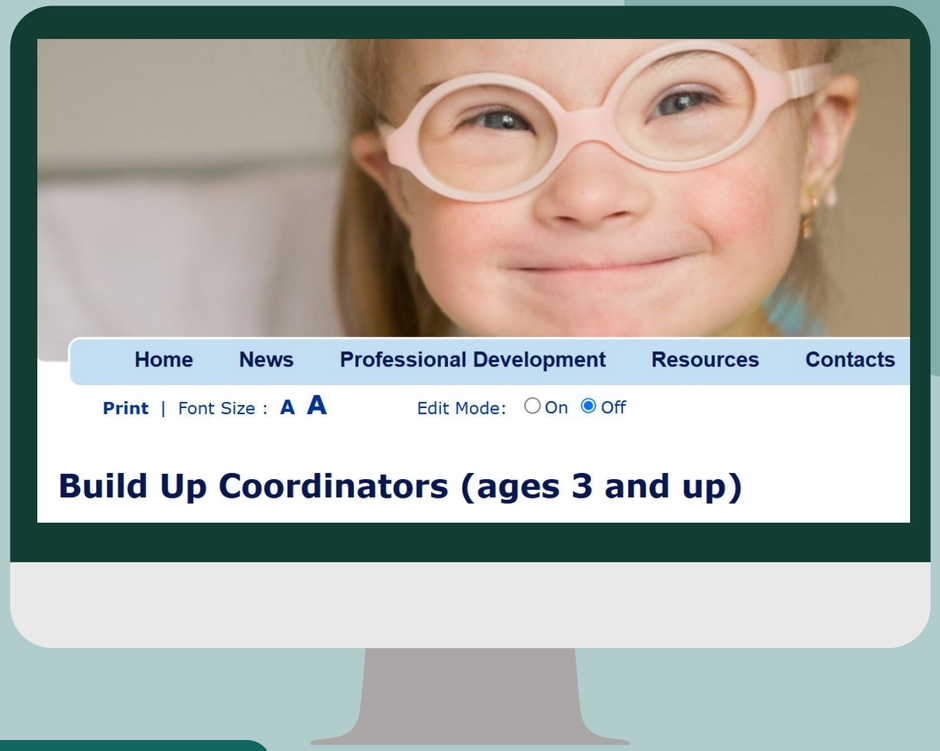
What are Preschool Services and Where Are They Located?

- Michigan Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services include special instruction and related services provided to young children, ages 3 though 5, who qualify under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) , Part B.
- In Michigan, Part B of IDEA is implemented by Michigan’s 56 Intermediate School Districts (ISDs).
- Michigan's ECSE program offers a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all eligible children at no cost to their families, and in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).
- LRE means that young children with disabilities should get services in community-based preschool settings and programs whenever possible.



Who Can Make an Inquiry?

- A parent must make the request!
- Recommend that the family make the request or provider can assist them.



How to Make an Inquiry to Build Up:

- Call your Build Up Coordinator
- OR Call 844-464-0005
- You can fill out a Help Me Grow Inquiry



EARLY INTERVENTION REFERRAL PROCESS

For children birth through 5 in Michigan

early on MICHIGAN

MiLEAP
Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

build up
LEARNING SUPPORT FOR PRESCHOOLERS

CHILDREN BIRTH TO 3 EARLY INTERVENTION	3 THROUGH 5 YEARS OLD SPECIAL EDUCATION
Early On® is Michigan's system for helping infants and toddlers, birth to age 3 and their families who have developmental delays or are at risk for delays due to certain health conditions.	Build Up Michigan helps locate and identify young children, ages 3 through 5, who may be in need of special education supports and/or services.
Go to the *Early On* Michigan website or call the toll-free phone number to place referral.	Go to the Build Up Michigan website or call the toll-free Michigan Special Education Information Line.
www.1800earlyon.org 1-800-Early On	www.buildupmi.org 1-888-320-8384
Find your local *Early On* Michigan office	Find your local Build Up Coordinator
y/EarlyOnContact	http://bit.ly/BuildUpCoordinator



bitly

Help Me Grow
Michigan

Help Me Grow Michigan

What is Help Me Grow?

Forward Facing:

Single point of connection for families & providers

Behind the Scenes:

Connecting the system – enhancing and filling in the gaps



The Value of Help Me Grow



FAMILIES

- One trusted place to turn
- Earlier support
- Real follow through
- NOT a maze of disconnected programs



PROVIDERS

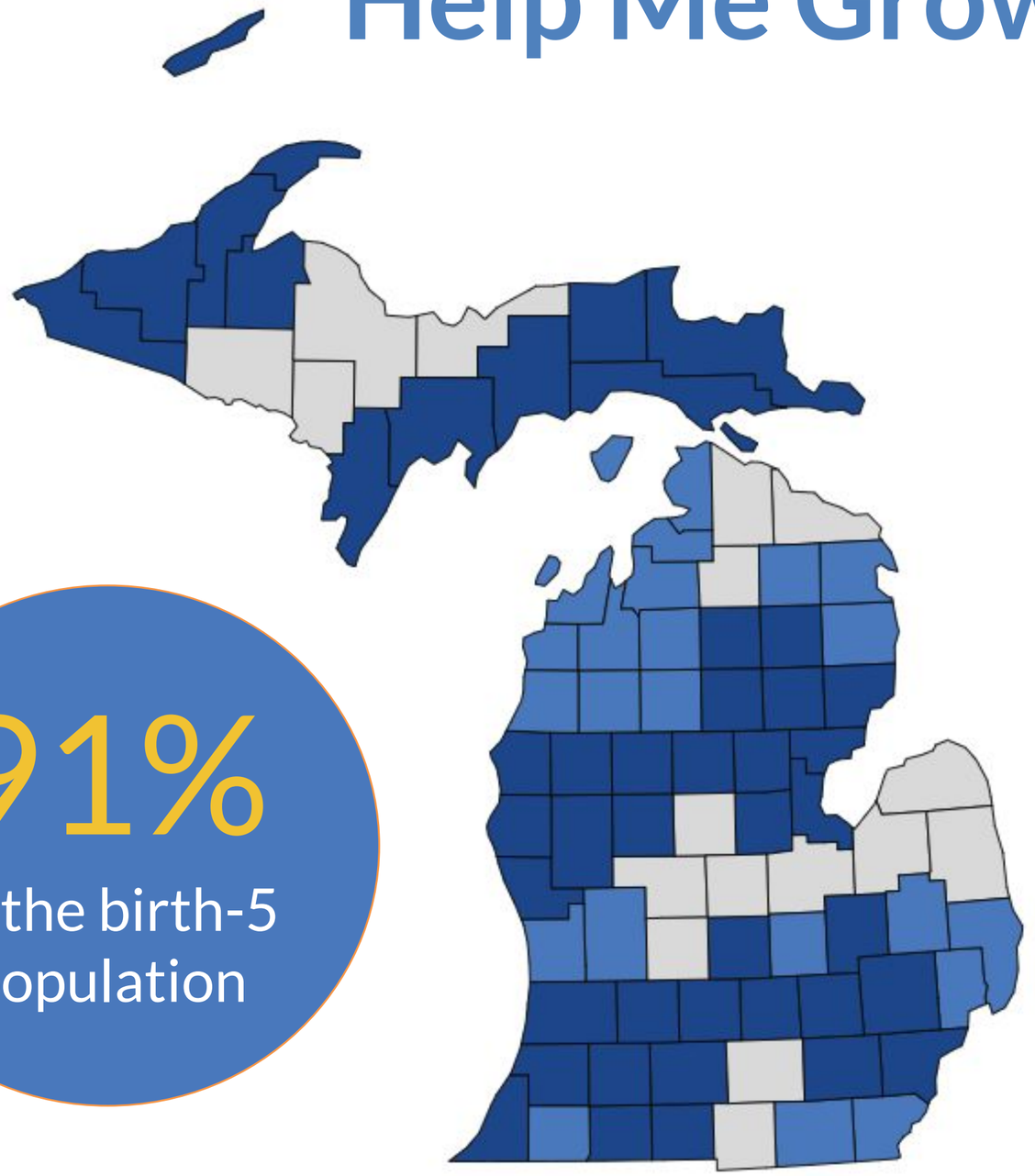
- Clear referral pathways
- Closed-loop communications
- A system that carries coordination so they can focus on care



COMMUNITIES

- Better aligned investments
- Less duplication
- Stronger outcomes
- Measurable return on investment

Help Me Grow Michigan

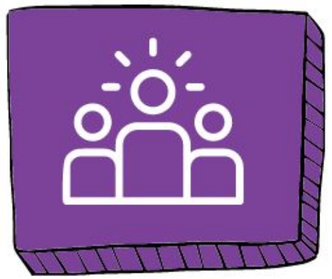


91%

of the birth-5 population

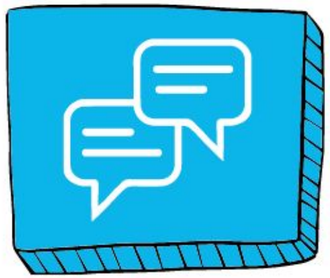
30	Pilot HMG ISDs
14	Regular HMG ISDs
12	Non-HMG ISDs

Help Me Grow
PROCESS



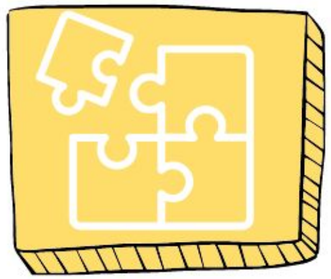
01. Initial Inquiry

Help Me Grow Inquiry is initiated through external referral, caregiver inquiry, or ASQ completion.



02. Care Coordination

Care Coordinator talks to family to discuss questions, concerns, and needed resources. Care Coordinator provides family with ASQ results.



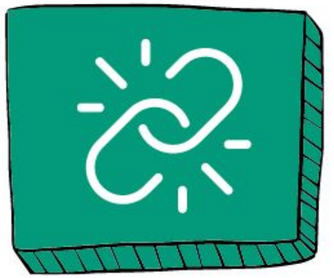
03. Resources

Care Coordinator refers each family to local resources dependent upon their needs (diapers, playgroups, story times, preschool, home visiting, child care, etc.)



04. Referral

Early Intervention Referrals/Inquiries are made to programs dependent upon developmental concerns and ASQ results.



05. Follow Up

Care Coordinator will follow up with each family to ensure that contacts were made with resources as well as any barriers if they were unable to obtain resources.

Help Me Grow finds available resources to support families



Child development milestones



Parent support

Quality early learning experiences, such as child care and preschool



Basic needs



Healthcare and behavior support services



Home visiting programs

Real Story. Real Impact.

As an older first-time mom, I thought experience and resources would make parenting easier until my youngest was placed on a behavior plan at 3 and daily emails from teachers became my new normal. **Help Me Grow stepped in like a best friend,** guiding us through the evaluation process at our own pace. That support led to an autism diagnosis our pediatrician's screenings had missed entirely. **Without Help Me Grow, we wouldn't have the answers or the path forward that our family needed.**

When & How to Refer to HMG

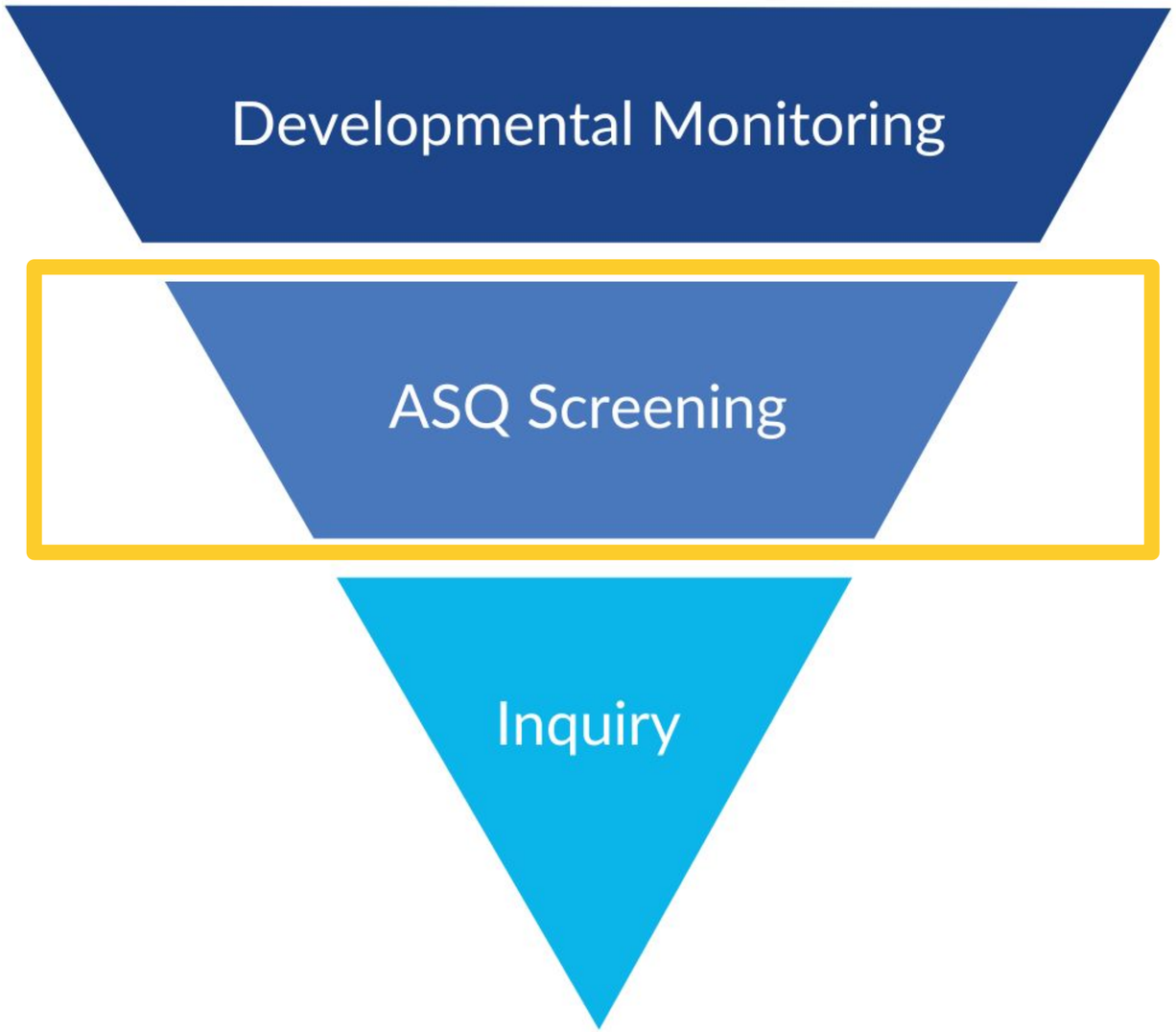
- ☑️ 0-3 *Early On*/3-5 Special Education
- ☑️ Parenting Support like Home Visiting or Parenting Groups
- ☑️ ASQ Screening
- ☑️ Child Development Questions/ Concerns
- ☑️ Early Childhood Basic Needs Support
- ☑️ Child Care or Preschool

https://www.helpmegrow-mi.org/counties

Call or Text

844-HMG-0005

Triage Support for the System



CDC Milestone & Care Coordination

ASQ Online at HMG

Early On/Build Up

Developmental Screening

- Provides a **“snapshot”** look at a child’s development
- Intended to identify the **need for further assessment** to verify delay in any developmental or health domain
- Implemented with adaptations or special attention to **cultural & linguistic variability**
- **Strengths based** - it is easy to share results and talk about a child’s development



How can you engage with screening?

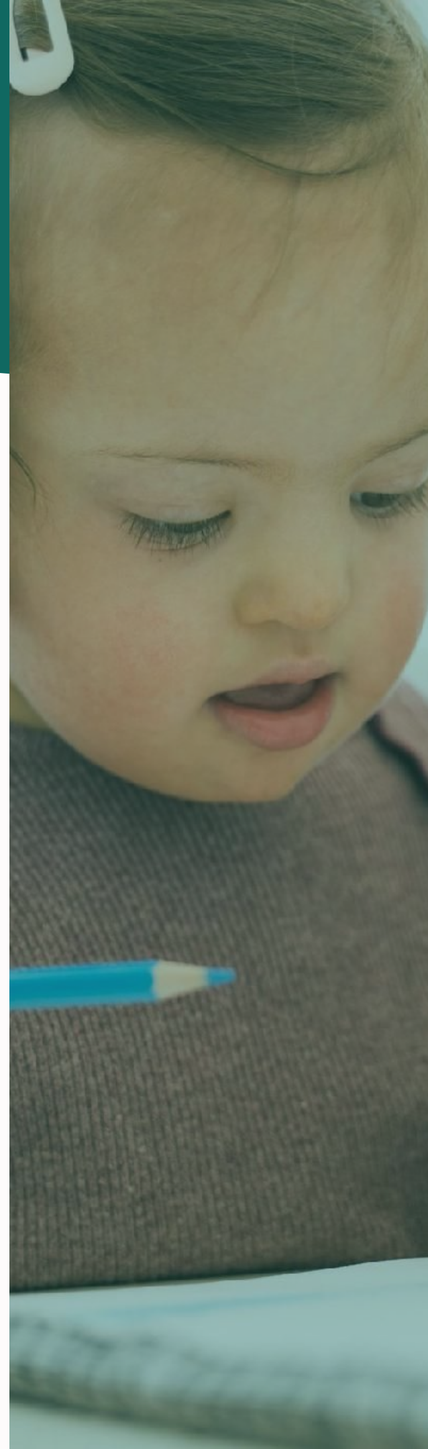
When there is a concern:

- Free access through Help Me Grow Michigan
- Visit **helpmegrow.mi-org/asq** to find where you can complete an ASQ
- Share this link with families
- Have providers fill out the ASQ on child
- Our Care Coordinator will share results with the family and offer next steps either way!

helpmegrow.mi-org/asq

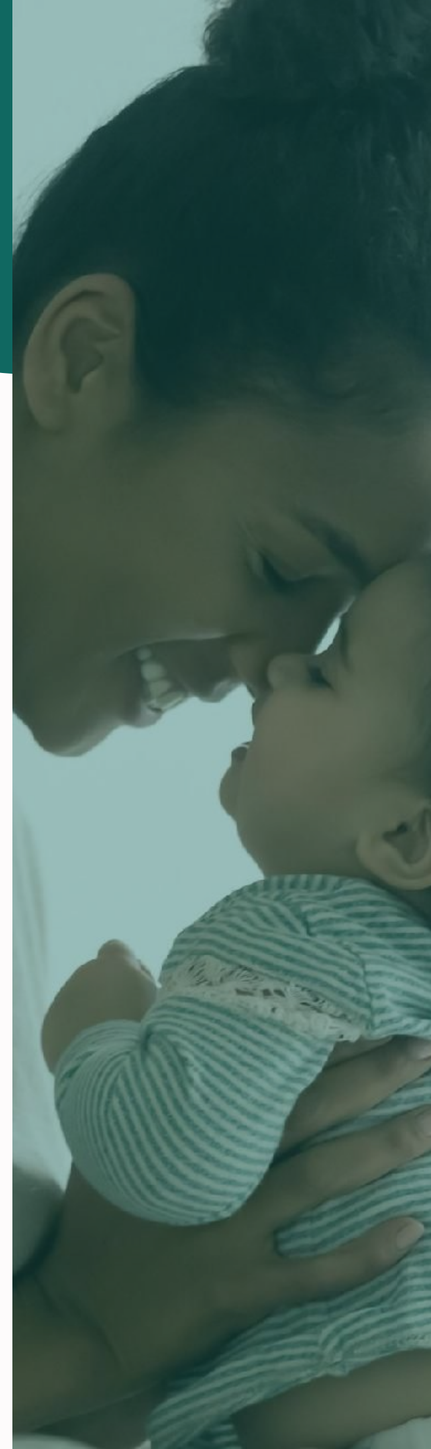
How to Communicate with Parents about Potential Delays

- Approach nonjudgmentally and be supportive
- Start with what families are seeing for the child's development as well as their concerns
- Focus on strengths and milestones
- Don't reassure parents too quickly, "everything is going to be fine" - can feel dismissive and shows a lack of understanding
- Refrain from using jargon
- Reassure parents that they did nothing wrong to cause delay
- Help parents understand not to compare their child to another child the same age- especially if a child does have a delay



How to Communicate with Parents about Potential Delays

- Help parents understand that there is a time range for meeting developmental milestones - just because they aren’t meeting a milestone now doesn’t mean they won’t in the future
- Help parents understand that the earlier services start, the better the outcomes
- Explain that if a referral is made and the child isn’t found eligible, family can still be connected with other supports or resources
- Determine next steps with family as a team



Help Me Grow
Michigan

When you don’t know, call Help Me Grow.

Help Me Grow
Michigan

Support birth to 3: *Early On*
Support 3-5: Build Up
Support B-5: Help Me Grow

early on
MICHIGAN

build up
LEARNING SUPPORT
FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Questions & THANK YOU!

Please reach out to us at:

Early On

- State Level Contacts
- Local Level Contacts
- MiLEAP-Early-On@michigan.gov

Build Up

- Local Level Contacts

Help Me Grow Michigan

- Local Level Contacts

