



## What is First Steps?

First Steps is a statewide early intervention system that provides services to children with developmental disabilities and developmental delays from birth to age 3 and their families. First Steps is Kentucky's response to the federal Infant-Toddler Program. First Steps offers comprehensive services through a variety of community agencies and service disciplines and is administered by the Department for Public Health in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

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### **Why Provide Services?**

Typically, children who participate in early intervention experience significant improvement in development and learning. Children with developmental delays or conditions likely to cause delays benefit greatly from First Step services during critical developmental years.

Services and support also benefit families by reducing stress.

Early intervention services can decrease the need for costly special education programs later in life by providing appropriate services that address problems early in the child's development.

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### **Who Does First Steps Serve?**

First Steps serves children from birth to age 3 and their families. Child eligibility for the program is determined two ways:

1. By developmental delay - A child may be eligible for services if an evaluation shows that a child is not developing typically in at least one of the following skill areas: communication, cognition, physical, social and emotional or self-help.
2. Established Risk - A child may be eligible if he or she receives a diagnosis of physical or mental condition with high probability of resulting developmental delay, such as Down Syndrome.

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### **Where are First Steps services provided?**

Services are provided in a child's natural environment; home, day care or other community setting. Eligibility for services is determined through a process of child and family assessment.

### ***To make a referral or for more information:***

First Steps/Northern Kentucky (Parents can call directly to make a referral for their child)

**Counties Served:** Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Owen, Pendleton

859-655-1195 (phone)

859-655-1194 (fax)