

## **Additional Evaluation and Intervention for Developmental Disorders**

The **American Academy of Pediatrics** (*Pediatrics* 2006;118: 405-420)<sup>1</sup> recommends that all children identified as being at high risk of a developmental disorder through developmental surveillance or screening should undergo the following:

- Referral to Early Intervention/Child Find or other early childhood therapeutic services;
- Diagnostic developmental evaluation; and
- Diagnostic medical evaluation.

### **Early Intervention (Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program)**

This program provides services designed to meet the developmental needs of children 0-3 with developmental delay or at risk for a substantial delay. Services can include identification and evaluation, therapeutic intervention (PT, OT, speech/language, special instruction), service coordination, and family support.

A Maryland child aged 0-3 may be eligible for the Infants and Toddlers Program if he/she:

- ✓ Has a delay of 25% or more in development;
- ✓ Is developing in a way that is considered “atypical” for most children his/her age; or
- ✓ Has a diagnosed condition (ex. Down syndrome, hearing impairment) that is likely to affect development.

Referrals can be made to the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program by faxing a completed *Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program Referral and Feedback Form* (Refer to Section 5, Addendum) to the local Infants and Toddler Program. Referrals can also be made by phone (See back of form).

### **Child Find/Preschool Special Education Services**

This program provides special education services for children with disabilities ages 3 through 5 in each local school system. Starting with the local school system Child Find office, children can receive screening services to identify any areas of concern for further assessment by a multidisciplinary team. A child determined to be eligible by one of the established disability eligibility categories can receive special education and related services necessary to support the child's development and educational program. Referrals can be made to the local school system Child Find Program (Refer to Section 8 – Telephone Directories).

Note: Evaluations through the Maryland Infants and Toddlers and Child Find Programs may not establish a developmental diagnosis or address medical risk. Further developmental and medical evaluation will often be necessary for children with established delays (see below).

### **Diagnostic Developmental Evaluation**

This evaluation is aimed at identifying the specific developmental disorder(s) affecting the child. If the pediatric primary care provider lacks the training and skills to perform this evaluation, a referral should be made through the child's Managed Care Organization (MCO) to an appropriate pediatric subspecialist or other early childhood professional

### **Diagnostic Medical Evaluation**

This evaluation is aimed at identifying an underlying etiology. In many cases, it may be performed by a trained and skilled pediatric primary care provider. Contact the child's MCO to refer to an appropriate pediatric sub-specialist if needed.

### **Other Resources**

There are a variety of state and local resources for children with developmental delays or disorders. Providers and families can contact The **Resource Finder**, a program of the Kennedy Krieger Institute, supported by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by calling **1-800-390-3372** or online <http://resourcefinder.kennedykrieger.org>. Other resources can be found by contacting the Local Health Department (Refer to Section 8 – Telephone Directories).

<sup>1</sup>A copy of the 2006 American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement, “Identifying Infants and Young Children with Developmental Disorders in the Medical Home: An Algorithm for Developmental Surveillance and Screening” can be accessed at <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics:118/1/405>