

## WE CAN HELP

Many children are born with or may develop disabilities that challenge their normal growth and development, impacting their success in school.

Fortunately, many of these conditions can be helped if parents recognize the problem early and seek help.

If you suspect your child may have special needs, call one of the numbers below. Don't hesitate to call their attention to, and/or seek advice about particular behaviors or possible difficulties your child may be experiencing. Remember, the earlier you recognize your child's special needs and seek help, the greater the possibility that your child can be helped. The Kentucky Early Intervention System program and your local school district need to know about all children with challenges, ages birth to 21 to plan for their individual needs.

For additional information and assistance, contact:

### **Kentucky Early Intervention System Program**

Department for Public Health  
275 E. Main St., HS2W-C  
Frankfort, KY 40621  
(502) 564-3756,  
Toll free - (877) 417-8377  
(or 1-877-41STEPS)  
Fax: (502) 564-0329

**Kentucky Department of Education**  
Ages 3-21  
Office of Special Education and Early  
Learning  
300 Sower Blvd.  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
502-564-4970



FROM

# DO YOU KNOW A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?



Kentucky Department of Education

The following early warning signals are some of the more common indications that a need may exist. If for any reason you suspect that your child may have special needs, we urge you to seek help immediately. Don't wait until your child enters school before you begin to deal with that concern.

## HEARING

- Does not turn to face the source of strange sounds or voices by 6 months of age.
- Has chronic earaches or running ears.
- Talks in an unusually loud voice.
- Turns the same ear toward a sound he/she wishes to hear.

## THINKING

- Does not react to his/her own name when called by age 9 months.
- Is unable to identify hair, eyes, ears, nose and mouth by pointing to them by age 2.
- Does not understand simple stories told or read by age 3.
- Does not give reasonable answers to such questions as "What do you do when you are sleepy?" or "What do you do when you are hungry?" by age 4.

- Does not seem to understand the meaning of the words "today," "tomorrow" or "yesterday" by age 5.
- Cannot find the words to describe their thoughts clearly at any age.

## SEEING

- Is unable to reach for and hold a toy by age 6 months.
- Is often unable to locate and pick up small objects that have been dropped.
- Frequently rubs eyes or complains that eyes hurt.
- Has reddened, watering eyes or encrusted eyelids.
- Holds head in a strained or awkward position (tilts head to either side—thrusts head forward or backward) when trying to look at a particular person or object.
- Sometimes or always crosses one or both eyes.
- Often complains of blurred vision and headaches.



## TALKING

- Cannot say "Mama" or "Dada" by age 9 months.
- Cannot say the names of a few toys and people by age 2.
- Cannot repeat common rhymes or TV jingles by age 3.
- Is not talking in short sentences by age 4.
- Is not understood by people outside the family by age 5.
- Cannot pronounce words clearly; speech is slurred and awkward at any age.

## MOVING

- Is unable to sit up by age 9 months.
- Cannot walk without help by age 2.
- Does not walk up and down steps by age 3.
- Is unable to balance on one foot for a short time by age 4.
- Cannot throw a ball overhead and catch a large ball bounced to him/her by age 5.
- A noticeable change in coordination; is unable to start or stop movement.

## SOCIALIZING

- Does not play games such as waving bye-bye, peek-a-boo, and pattycake by age 9 months.
- Does not imitate parents doing routine household chores by age 2.
- Does not enjoy playing alone with toys, pots and pans, sand, etc. by age 3.
- Does not play group games such as hide-and- seek, tag-ball, etc. by age 3.
- Does not share and take turns by age 5.
- Appears to have experienced a change in personality or mood.