

Trying
together

Contact Information

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Trying Together

Trying Together supports high-quality care and education for young children by providing advocacy, community resources, and professional growth opportunities for the needs and rights of children, their families, and the individuals who interact with them.

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ELRC Region 5

[Early Learning Resource Center \(ELRC\) Region 5](#) provides a single point-of-contact for Allegheny County families, early learning service providers, and communities to gain information and access services that support high-quality child care and early learning programs.

Be An Advocate

Start Strong PA

Advocate for affordable high-quality child care: startstrongpa.org

Pre-K for PA

Advocate for increased access to high-quality pre-k: prekforpa.org

Childhood Begins at Home

Advocate for evidence-based home visiting: childhoodbeginsathome.org

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Receive advocacy alerts right in your inbox: bit.ly/advocacy-alert

Early Intervention

Learning Objectives

- Helping families and caregivers understand the Allegheny County Early Intervention processes.
- Ways to track developmental milestones and connections to local resources.
- Strategies and resources that parents can use to encourage development by using developmentally appropriate parenting.

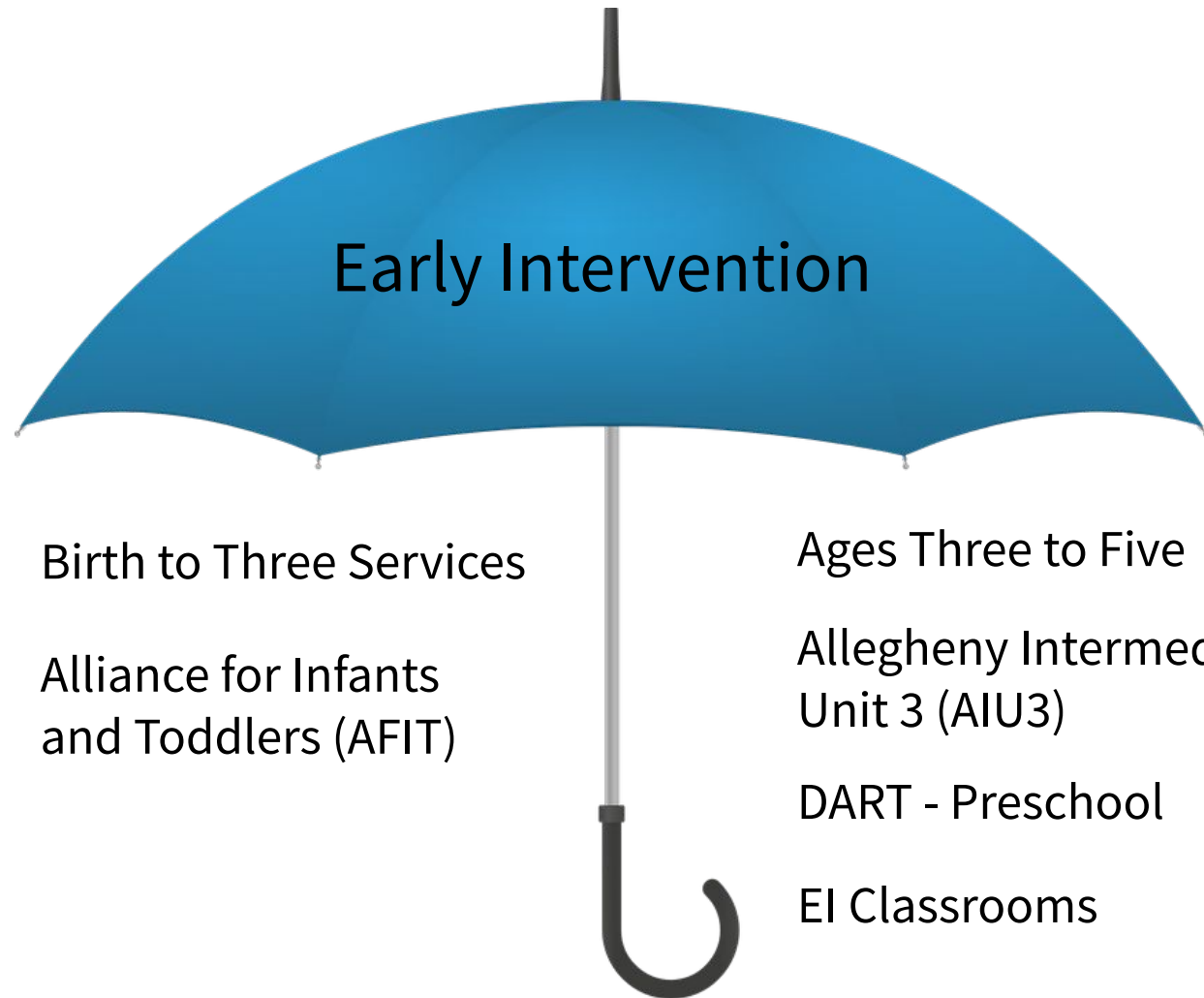
Quick! Let's Define..

- Developmental milestones - defined as the markers parents and caregivers can use to understand how their child should be developing.
- Early Intervention - defined by the CDC (2019) as services and supports that are available to babies and young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.
- Developmentally appropriate practices (DAP) - defined as the methods used to promote each child's optimal development and learning through a strength-based, play-based, approach to learning.

What is Early Intervention?

- Provides support to families with children birth to age five.
- Free of cost to families and caregivers.
- State supported collaborations.
- Coaching and service coordination.

Early Intervention Services in Allegheny County



You or your pediatrician suspect your child between the ages of birth to three years of age has a developmental delay ... now what?



Birth to Three

- Allegheny County's Alliance for Infants and Toddlers will provide a free developmental screening assessment to determine the child's eligibility.
- The assessment will evaluate the child's development across all domains.
 - Cognitive
 - Physical
 - Adaptive
 - Personal/Social
 - Speech and Communication

Birth to Three

- Depending on the results of the evaluation and the percentage of delays, a plan will be developed with collaboration from the child's team.
- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Services are provided in the child's natural and least restrictive environments this may include:
 - **Home**
 - **Child Care**
 - **Community**

Therapy Services Available

- Physical Therapy
 - **Motor movements: crawling, standing, walking**
- Speech/Language Therapy
 - **Making sounds, using gestures.**
- Occupational Therapy
 - **Fine motor: using fingers to pick up toys, sensory.**
- Behavioral (Developmental) Therapy
 - **Following directions, completing tasks.**
- Eating/Nutrition Support
- Mental Health Support



You or your pediatrician suspect your child between the ages of three to five years of age has a developmental delay ... now what?

Three to Five

- Children between the ages of three to five years old that demonstrate a delay in developmental areas on a standardized assessment are eligible for early intervention services with Allegheny County also known as DART.
- **D** - Discover
- **A** - Assessment
- **R** - Referral
- **T** - Tracking

Three to Five

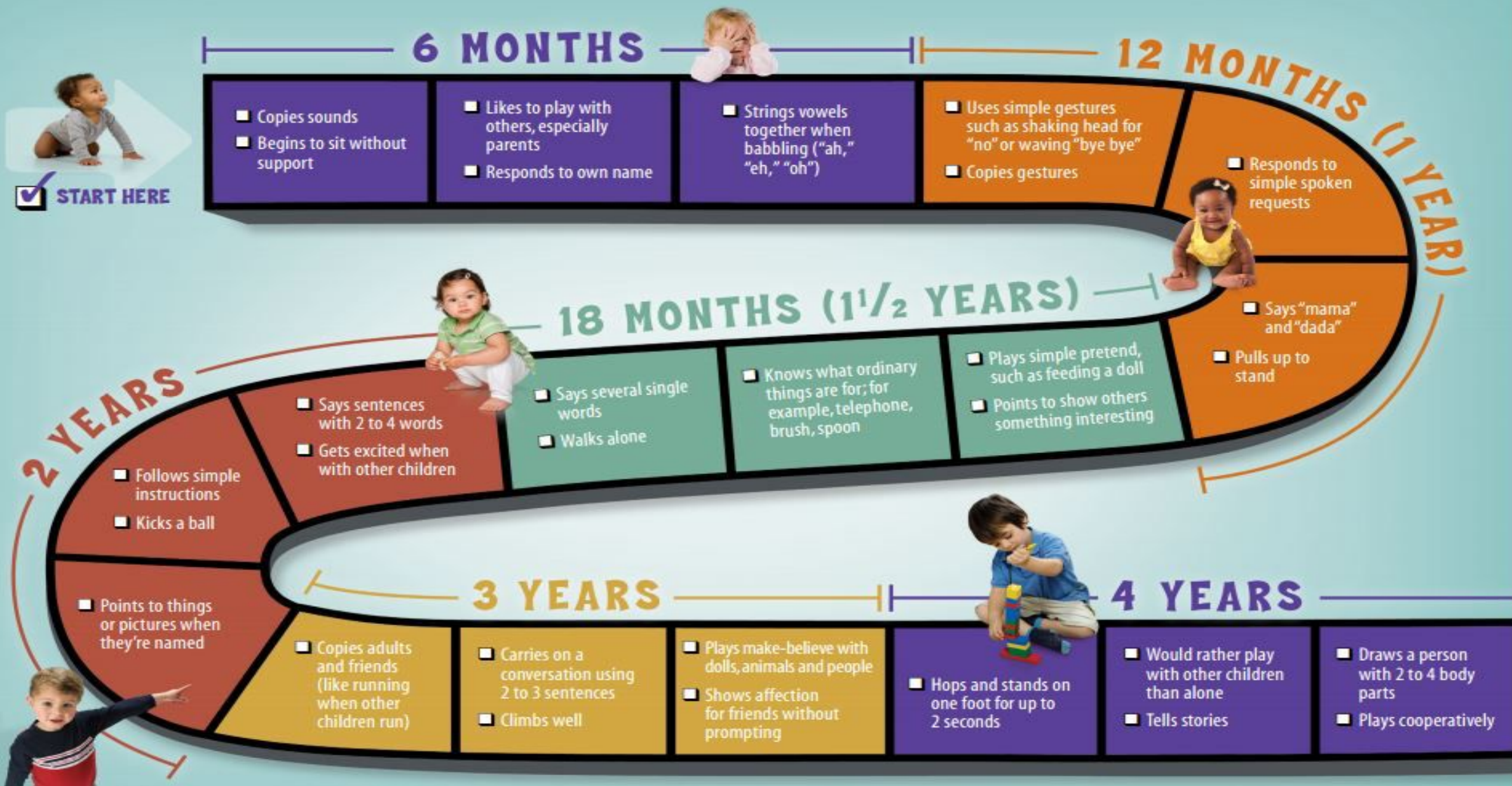
- Services are provided in the least restrictive environment.
- Itinerant services provided in child's preschool, child care, or home.
 - **Speech Therapy**
 - **Physical Therapy**
 - **Occupational Therapy**
 - **Behavioral Therapy**
- Preschool special education classrooms are provided in school districts and various church buildings
- Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
 - **Child Centered vs. Family Centered**

Developmental Milestones

- Parents can use recommended checklists, trackers and virtual apps to monitor developmental milestones.
 - **CDC Developmental Milestones Tracker App**
- Research shows that the sooner developmental services start, the better the outcome.
- Attending regularly scheduled pediatrician well-visits to address any concerns is an important way to keep track of development.

Your Child's Early Development is a Journey

Check off the milestones your child has reached and share your child's progress with the doctor at every visit.

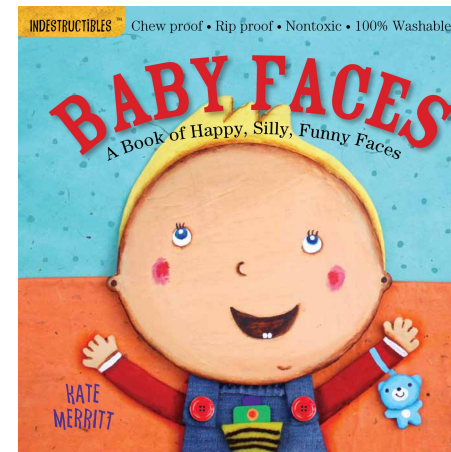


How to Support Development?

- Age appropriate books and literature.
- Provide various means of communication.
- Respond to them.
- Provide positive attention and praise.
- Age appropriate toys and activities.



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Resources for Parents and Caregivers

- How to encourage development?
 - chop.edu/primary-care/developmental-milestones
- Printable milestone checklist.
 - [cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/checklists/Checklists-with-Tips Reader 508.pdf](http://cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/checklists/Checklists-with-Tips_Reader_508.pdf)
- FREE developmental screening for BIRTH to THREE.
 - afit.org
 - **Schedule today at: 412.885.6000**
- FREE developmental screening for THREE to FIVE.
 - aiu3.net
 - **Schedule today at: 412.394.5904**

References

- *DAP: Observing, Documenting and Assessing Children's Development Learning.*
NAEYC. (2020).
naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/dap/assessing-development.
- aiu3.net
afit.org
- cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/facts.html

More Resources from Trying Together

Allegheny Child Care - www.alleghenychildcare.org

Early Learning Resource Center Region 5 - elrc5.alleghenycounty.us

The Homewood Early Learning Hub & Family Center -
www.tryingtogether.org/community-resources/hub-and-family-center

Developmentally Appropriate Parenting (DAP) Series -
<https://tryingtogether.org/parenting-resources/>

Share Your Feedback!

**Fill out this survey to receive DAP
Series cards via mail -**

<http://bit.ly/parentingtogether>



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Thank you.

