

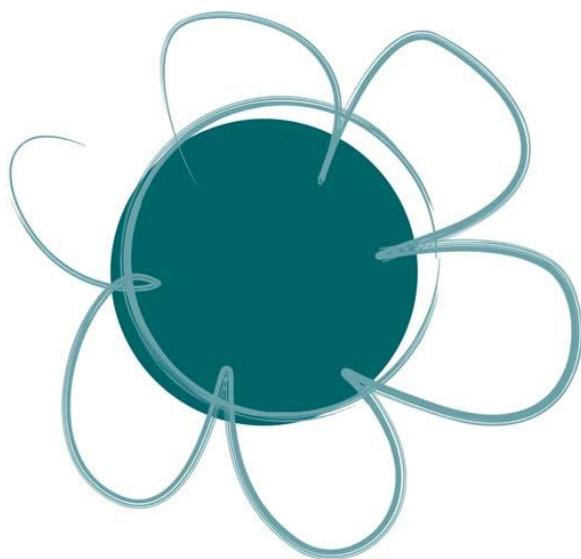
WHO CAN REFER A CHILD?

Anyone who has a concern about a child's development may make a referral. This includes parents, guardians, foster parents and family members; professionals such as pediatricians, other physicians, social workers, nurses or childcare providers; or others who have contact with the child.

WHEN SHOULD I MAKE A REFERRAL?

- ◆ If you suspect a developmental delay
- ◆ If you have diagnosed a disability through: > Diagnostic procedures > Informed clinical opinion
- ◆ If a developmental screening indicates that the child could benefit from a comprehensive developmental evaluation
- ◆ A parent has a concern
- ◆ If you feel the child and family could benefit from a comprehensive developmental evaluation

Remember, it is not necessary to determine a diagnosis or a delay prior to making a referral. Simply the fact that you are concerned about the child's development is enough to generate a referral.



How Do I Refer a Child?

Each county and Indian tribe is served by one or more FIT provider agencies. You'll find a list of providers in Section 4 of this manual — Service Providers. We'll mail updates of this section to you regularly so that all contact information is current. You can make a referral directly to the local early intervention provider serving your community or to Children's Medical Services (CMS) at the local county health department. If you prefer, you may phone **BabyNet** at **1-800-552-8195** or send a fax referral to the FIT Program at **1-866-829-8838**, and they will contact the appropriate provider for you.

When you make a referral, you will be asked for basic information about the child (date of birth, family information, name, address, etc.) and the reason for the referral. You should inform and get permission from the family when making a referral. Also, you may encourage the family to call or visit their local early intervention provider themselves.

THE RESULTS OF THE REFERRAL

For more information on the results of your referral, please see the flow chart on page 3 titled Steps in Accessing Services through the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program.

- ◆ A service coordinator (case manager) assigned to the family will meet with them.
- ◆ The service coordinator will coordinate evaluation and assessment activities to determine eligibility. The evaluation will look at the child's abilities in all developmental areas.
- ◆ If the child is eligible for the Family Infant Toddler Program, the family, service coordinator and members of the evaluation team will meet to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan, or IFSP. You may wish to be part of the IFSP team in person, by phone or by report or letter.
- ◆ You will receive information as to whether the child and family are eligible for the FIT Program, as well as a copy of the IFSP, so that you will know what supports and services they will receive.