



Parent/Doctor Communication Video



Although it may be difficult to explain to parents that an infant may have a delay, ensuring a child receives early intervention should outweigh any discomfort that might arise from such a conversation. Waiting another three months until the next well-baby visit could potentially delay much needed therapy.

In this short video, notice how the doctor acts in several scenarios:

First scenario (minimal support):

- Mother brings up concern about baby's development
- Doctor explains all children develop differently; "wait and see" how the baby progresses
- If there is an early motor delay, the child misses out on an early referral

Second clip (not optimal):

- Doctor asks more specific questions regarding mother's concerns
- Doctor recommends keeping diary of when baby is moody, difficult, or exhibits concerning behavior
- Doctor recommends return visit in three weeks instead of typical three months for a check-up
- Doctor takes a proactive role
- Child misses out on an early referral

Final scenario (optimal reaction):

- Doctor pinpoints one of the problem areas
- Doctor asks mother about trouble diapering baby
- Mother responds saying yes, her son often has stiff muscle movement
- Doctor suggests a second opinion complete with a full screening and evaluation



Err on the side of caution when debating whether an infant requires a second opinion:

- Often there is a wait list for a child to be seen for early intervention or a pediatric therapist
- It is easier to cancel an appointment than to wait until the next visit and postpone the possibility of getting the help babies need

If there are concerns, the best option is an early referral for screening and/or evaluation.

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