Recognizing Early Motor Delays: The Next Steps

Parents often look to health professionals for guidance to ensure their child reaches his or her fullest potential. To show support a health professional might:

• Encourage parents to share concerns
• Schedule a follow-up for a suspected delay
• Have a caregiver keep a notebook of concerns and observations between baby visits
• Refer a child for an evaluation or early screening

Descriptions of Pediatric Therapy Disciplines

Pediatric Occupational Therapists
• Help children participate in various environments and daily life activities
• Improve play skills, self care, fine motor skills, and sensory processing
• Work toward improving a child’s ability to be an active participant in life’s meaningful activities

Pediatric Physical Therapists
• Work to improve a child’s strength, flexibility, range of motion, posture, balance, and movement patterns
• Assess a variety of aspects that affect and determine a child’s ability to be independent
• Help children to safely participate in activities within the home, school, and community

Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologists
• Evaluate and provide intervention to give children the tools to communicate effectively
• Aim to improve a child’s ability to use verbal and non-verbal language and to tolerate sensory stimulation
• Address feeding and swallowing in infants and children