



**"We were scared to call at first, but we're so glad we did. Now our two-year-old is learning to walk and we've learned how to use everyday activities to help him even more."**  
 —A Minnesota mother

### Life Improves for Your Child and Family

With early childhood services and supports, you:

- Help your whole family.
- Learn how to understand your child's strengths, abilities, and special needs.
- Are more confident making decisions about your child's services.



### Make the Call

Every child deserves a chance to grow, develop, and learn. Finding help is fast and easy.

- If you have questions—or don't even know what questions to ask—call PACER Center at 952-838-9000 or 800-537-2237 (toll free). Ask to speak to Bonnie Jean Smith.

Bonnie Jean is an understanding parent advocate who is also a mother of a child with special needs. You will be able to talk about your concerns with her and learn where to find the services you need. You may also request family-friendly written materials.

- Call your local school district office and ask to speak to the person in charge of early childhood special education. You may need to ask for an interpreter. Explain that you have concerns about your child. Ask how to find out if your child is eligible for early childhood services.
- Call Minnesota's Help Me Grow Infant and Toddler Early Intervention and Preschool Education at 1-866-693-4769.



**PACER.org**

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## Parents



**Are You Concerned about How Your Baby or Young Child:**

**Sees or Hears?  
 Moves or Plays?  
 Talks or Learns?  
 Behaves?**

**Find out what to do next...**

AFRICAN AMERICAN

## You'll Feel Better if You Check Out Your Concerns

Many parents wonder if their babies and young children are developing, growing, and learning as well as possible. If your wondering has turned to worrying:

- Talk with your child's doctor.
- If you still have concerns, check further.

You'll be glad you did.

## The Earlier You Act, the Better for Your Child

Some babies and young children need extra help to learn important skills, such as crawling, walking, and talking. The earlier your child receives help:

- The sooner your child will make progress.
- The more ready your child will be to learn when he or she enters school.

Your school district can help you determine if your child has special developmental needs that qualify for free help.

***"My family  
was treated  
with  
respect."***



## Free Help is Available

If your child qualifies, the school district will provide a service coordinator to help you plan the services and supports your child and family need. These may include:

- Early childhood special instruction and related services such as speech, occupational, and physical therapy.
- Tips on how to help your child develop skills at home.
- Connections to helpful community services.

If your child is not eligible for services, the school district can still help you find community resources.

***"The early childhood teacher  
listened to what I already knew about  
my son, then added new,  
helpful insights."***