



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

DATE: June 14, 2010
TO: Early Steps Community Partners and Referral Resources
FROM: Lynn Marie Price, Bureau Chief, Early Steps State Office
RE: Eligibility Changes to Early Steps

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Marie Price".

Effective July 1, 2010, Early Steps eligibility criteria for infants and toddlers under the age of 36 months will change in accordance with the following details.

Established conditions (which must be confirmed by written diagnosis) fall into one of the following areas:

- A. Genetic and metabolic disorders
- B. Neurological disorder
- C. Autism Spectrum Disorder
- D. Severe attachment disorder
- E. Significant sensory impairment (vision/hearing)
- F. Infants who weigh less than 1,200 grams at birth

Developmental delay as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures in the 5 developmental domains listed below.

- A. Cognitive
- B. Physical (including vision and hearing)
- C. Communication
- D. Social or Emotional
- E. Adaptive

The new eligibility criteria for all eligibility determination evaluations performed on or after July 1, 2010 are as follows:

- meets or exceeds 2.0 standard deviations below the mean in one or more developmental domains.
- meets or exceeds 1.5 standard deviations below the mean in two or more developmental domains or,

All children will be evaluated based on their chronological age; premature children will no longer be adjusted to gestational age. All children currently Early Steps eligible will remain Early Steps eligible, even if they do not meet the new eligibility criteria.

Families can be referred for our services using our statewide toll-free phone number **1-800-654-4440**. We thank you for your continued support in referring all families who have children that you feel might be eligible.

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Phone: (850) 245-4200
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<http://www.cms-kids.com/EarlyStepshome.htm>