

DDD-PI-081

TO: Human Service Centers, DD Service Providers,
Primary Referral Sources

FROM: Mark Kolling, Director
Developmental Disabilities Unit

DATE:

SUBJECT: Referral of Infants and Toddlers with Suspected Developmental Delays

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 1999

Federal regulatory guidelines for implementation of part C Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that the lead agency, the Department of Human Services, "insures that referrals are made no more than two working days after a child has been identified" (34CFR part 303.321(d)(2)(ii)).

Infants and toddlers age birth to three years old should be referred to the appropriate regional human service center if the child is suspected of being handicapped or developmentally delays in any of the following areas: cognitive development; physical development, including vision and hearing; language and speech development; psychosocial development, or self-help skills.

Therefore, the Department of Human Services is requesting your agency's cooperation in meeting this assurance. Please refer infants and toddlers age birth through two years of age to the appropriate regional human service center if the child is suspected of being handicapped or developmentally delays in any of the following areas: cognitive development; physical development, including vision and hearing; language and speech development; psychosocial development, or self-help skills. Referral sources are encouraged to involve families in the referral process, but the families need not agree in order for a referral to be initiated.

Thank you for your cooperation towards the improvement of services to young children.

If you have any questions concerning this policy, please contact Deb Balsdon, Part C Coordinator, Developmental Disabilities Unit, 600 South 2nd Street, Ste 1A, Bismarck, ND 58504-5729 or at 1-800-755-8529.

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