



News *Release*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bluegrass.org | First Steps Offers Free IDD Screenings for Children

Today marks the end of Intellectual & Development Disabilities (IDD) Awareness Month, yet Bluegrass.org is here for families all year long. Bluegrass.org | First Steps offers free developmental screenings, year-round, for infants and toddlers ranging from birth to three-years-old.

These screenings look for potential developmental delays in five areas of development: communication, motor, self-help, cognitive, and personal/social. If a child is exhibiting any red flags for Autism Spectrum Disorder, the First Steps staff can also complete a free autism screening.

Are you concerned about a baby who isn't rolling over or sitting up? Are you worried about a child who isn't making many sounds or starting to say words? Are you worried about a child's behavior or temperament? **Anyone** who is concerned about an infant or toddler's development can make a referral to First Steps as long as the family is aware the referral is being made. The highly-trained and well-qualified First Steps staff are located at 343 Waller Ave., Suite 201, in Lexington, KY. Referrals can be made by calling 1-800-454-2764 or 859-271-9448.

First Steps is Kentucky's Early Intervention System that provides screening and eligibility determination for all referrals, as well as service coordination for families who have children in the First Steps Program. Children who qualify for First Steps may receive early intervention services from a variety of professionals such as speech therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and teachers. Medicaid and the child's private insurance will be accessed to pay for early intervention services and families will be assessed for a monthly family share fee based on income and household size.

Early intervention services are provided in the child's natural environment (home, daycare and community). Parents and caregivers are coached by the early interventionists so they can carry out strategies and activities in their child's daily routines. Children learn best from parents during their daily routines.

Bluegrass.org has served the seventeen county Bluegrass Area for over 45 years, assisting individuals and families in the enhancement of their emotional, mental and physical well-being by providing behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disabilities and substance abuse services.

If you have any questions or would like to set up an appointment, please call First Steps at 859-271-9448.

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1351 Newtown Pike BLDG 1
Lexington KY 40511-1277
859-253-1686