



Who Can Refer to Help Me Grow? You Can!

Referrals for HMG Early Intervention and HMG Home Visiting come from expectant parents, parents, family members, neighbors and these other referral sources...

Hospitals, Pre and Post Natal Clinics, Physicians, Child care programs and early learning programs, Local Education Agencies and schools, Public health facilities, Other public health or social service agencies, Clinics and Health care providers, Public agencies and staff in the child welfare system including, Child protective service and foster care, Homeless family shelters, Domestic violence shelters and agencies, and many more!

Primary referral sources must refer children who have been the victim of substantiated abuse or neglect or a child who has been directly affected by illegal substance abuse and/or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure.

What Information Will I Need to Make a Referral?

- Child's name and age
- Parent or Legal Guardian's first and last name, address, e-mail, or phone
- Child's county of residence

How do I Make a Referral to Help Me Grow?

Call your local HMG Central Coordination Site

Place local address/contact label here

By Phone: Call Toll Free 800-755-GROW(4769)

Online: Visit www.helpmegrow.ohio.gov and click on the "Referral" tab. Persons with communication difficulties can call Ohio Relay Service-TTY-800-750-0750

What Happens Next?

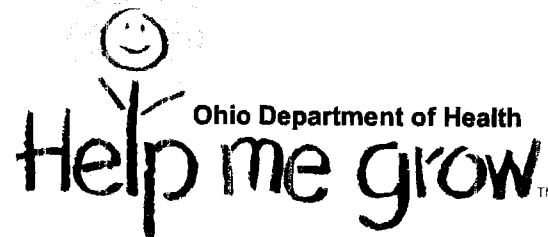
The parent will be contacted to ask about their interest in the voluntary programs. Nothing will occur without the family providing consent for participation. With parent consent, HMG will provide any professional referral source a follow up communication.

www.helpmegrow.ohio.gov

www.facebook.com/OhioHelpMeGrow



Ohio
Department of Health





“What is Help Me Grow?”

- Help Me Grow (HMG) offers two voluntary programs to prenatal women, children, and families:
 - HMG Early intervention provides family-centered services for infants and toddlers to age 3 with a developmental delay, disability, or a medical condition likely to result in a delay or disability.
 - HMG Home Visiting provides first time expectant or new parents the information and support they need to be prepared for the birth of their child and provides ongoing education and support for families to maximize their child’s health and development to age 3.
- Both programs are available in all 88 Ohio counties. When you contact Ohio Help Me Grow in your community, someone will help you find the best program for you and your family.
- Anyone can refer a child or family to Help Me Grow!

HMG Early Intervention

Do you have a concern about your child’s development?

- HMG Early Intervention service needs are determined by a multidisciplinary team who evaluates and/or assesses the child’s developmental needs.
- The team is led by a Service Coordinator who will work to assist and enable a child with a delay or disability and the child’s family to receive services and rights as afforded under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Children and their families will transition when they complete needed services or when the child turns age three, with supports to move on to the next phase of growth & development.

HMG Home Visiting

- Home Visiting matches parents with a trained Home Visitor who comes to wherever the family lives. Their Home Visitor is a friendly, trained, and experienced person who can answer questions about pregnancy or being a parent and can help find services that help families care for themselves and their children.
- The HMG Home Visiting Program works with and supports families and helps them set and reach their goals.
- In home services include: parenting education, ongoing screenings, coordination and referrals for community resources, transition at age 3.



Your rights as a parent in Help Me Grow begin with referral to the early intervention service coordination agency and continue throughout your participation in Help Me Grow (HMG) Early Intervention. Your service coordinator is mandated by law to explain these rights to you verbally, as well as provide this brochure to you in writing.

As a Parent, you have the right to:

- Be informed of your rights
- Be fully informed of all information related to the activity for which your approval is sought and provide written consent **before:**
 - Any screening, evaluation, child assessment or family-directed assessment is done (must sign a consent form which includes all of these before any one of these can be done);
 - Any Early Intervention (EI) service begins (signing IFSP does this);
 - Any information about your child and/or family is shared, who it will be shared with, and the time frame in which the information was shared;
 - Your child's personally identifying information is collected (HMG does collect data on you and your child. If you have questions about what kind of information, ask your service coordinator before you sign the consent to participate in HMG EI);
 - Your child's or your public benefits or private insurance are used to pay for EI services (you must authorize this before it would be done on your behalf); and
 - An application to use the early intervention system of payment is completed and submitted on your behalf.
- Participate or decline participation in HMG at any time, as this program is voluntary

- Cancel or revise previously provided consent to participate and/or release/share personal information at any time
- Accept or decline some or all HMG services throughout your participation in HMG, even after initially accepting it; without risking other services, with the following exception:
 - Your child will not be eligible for early intervention services if you refuse to consent to any of the required screenings, evaluations and/or assessments (Developmental evaluation is required to establish eligibility for the program, in some cases; Child Assessment is required to determine your child's need for early intervention services in all cases initially and at least annually thereafter)
- Request to be present at, and contribute fully in all HMG meetings about your family, including IFSP meetings and the transition planning conference
- Opt out of personally identifiable information being provided to the local education agency (LEA-school district) once your child turns age two (you will be asked to make this decision at the IFSP meeting closest to your child turning 18 months old)



As a Parent, you have the right to:

- Receive one electronic or paper copy of each completed IFSP at no cost, within ten calendar days of the event
- Request reconsideration of an eligibility determination when you disagree with the eligibility determination made
- A Service Coordinator who is responsible, as a single point of contact, to assist you and your family. Your service coordinator has the following responsibilities:
 - Coordinating developmental evaluations and child and family assessments;
 - Facilitating and participating in the development, periodic review, and annual evaluation of your family's IFSP;
 - Conducting referral and other activities to assist you in identifying available early intervention service providers;
 - Helping you obtain access to needed early intervention services and other services identified in the IFSP;
 - Coordinating the provision of early intervention services and other services that your child needs or is being provided;
 - Coordinating, facilitating, and monitoring the delivery of services to assure that they are provided in a timely manner (In Ohio that is within 30 calendar days of your signature on the IFSP);
 - Conducting follow-up activities to determine that appropriate early intervention services are being provided;
 - Coordinating the funding sources for early intervention services on the IFSP; and,
 - Facilitating the development of a transition plan to preschool, school, or if appropriate, other services when participation in HMG early intervention is coming to an end.

As a parent you have the right to:

- A multidisciplinary developmental evaluation to determine your child's eligibility for early intervention
- A multidisciplinary child assessment to identify your child's unique strengths and needs related to early intervention services, within forty-five days of the referral to the service coordination agency
- Receive written notification (either in person, electronically, or post-mailed) in advance of your family's initial and annual IFSP meetings
- Ask for a different service coordinator at any time during your program participation
- Receive prior written notice, at least ten calendar days before an early intervention service is proposed, refused or changed outside of your family's periodic IFSP review. This notice must be in your native language (unless clearly not feasible to do so) and include the following:
 - The action being taken;
 - The reason for the action;
 - The information upon which the action is founded; and
 - Your rights and procedures if you disagree with the action.
- Review your child's record and request a copy of the record

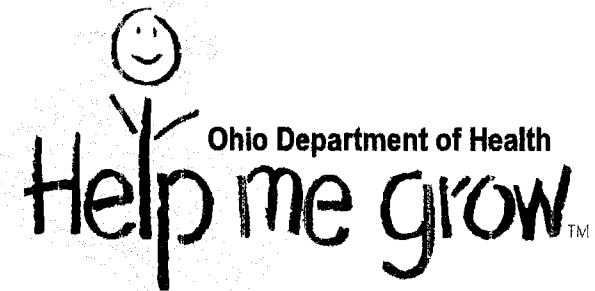
Information about your family and child is confidential and will not be shared unless you provide consent to share information in writing.

You may file a complaint with the Ohio Department of Health if you feel that any one of your rights has been violated. You may request an investigation, mediation, or due process hearing to resolve your complaint.

- You will be asked to put your complaint in writing.
- The complaint will be shared with the service providers and other state partners, as appropriate.

To file a complaint about your child's early intervention services please:

- Contact the Bureau for Children with Developmental and Special Health Needs at the Ohio Department of Health by phone at (614) 644-8389; or
- E-mail at beis@odh.ohio.gov; or
- Mail to The Ohio Department of Health, Bureau for Children with Developmental and Special Health Needs, Help Me Grow, 246 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio 43215



Parents' Rights in Ohio Help Me Grow Early Intervention



Ohio Department of Health
Bureau for Children with
Developmental and Special Health Needs
(614) 644-8389