

FIRST STEPS ELIGIBILITY

➤ Who is eligible for First Steps early intervention services?

A child (birth to third birthday) is eligible for First Steps services if he/she demonstrates a 20% delay or -1.5 standard deviation in function in two areas of development (called domains) or a 25% delay or -2.0 standard deviation in one area. The developmental domains are cognitive, physical (fine motor, gross motor, hearing, vision), communication, social, and adaptive. A child may also be eligible because of a high probability of developmental delay. These would include chromosomal abnormalities or genetic disorders, neurological disorders, congenital malformations, low birth weight or severe toxic exposure, sensory impairments and neurological abnormality in newborn period.

➤ I think my child may be eligible. How do I access First Steps services?

If you have concerns about your child's development, you may call the First Steps System Point of Entry office in your area of the state. A map of First Steps areas or clusters with contact numbers are on the back of this sheet. Explain your concerns and ask to have your child evaluated. Your child's physician may also refer your child to First Steps. Either way, once a referral is made, your child's evaluation process begins.

➤ How will eligibility for First Steps be determined?

Most Indiana counties have an eligibility determination (ED) team. An ED team is made up of First Steps providers (a developmental therapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, and physical therapist). Depending on the suspected delays, two of the ED team members will do an evaluation on your child (i.e. if your child is suspected to have a speech delay, the speech therapist and perhaps a developmental therapist may conduct the evaluation). Based on the results of the evaluation, the ED team will make a recommendation about eligibility and need for services.

➤ What happens after the evaluation?

Based on the results of the evaluation, one of three scenarios will occur:

1. Your child is found to be in need of services. The team will meet with you to discuss possible services. The next step is to set up a meeting to determine eligibility and create an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). You will select the providers you want to work with your child, and your child will begin receiving early intervention services.
2. Your child is eligible but not in need of services. This may happen if your child has a high probability of developmental delay (such as low birth weight) but is displaying skills typical of same-age peers. You will receive developmental information so that you may closely monitor your child's progress, as well as information on how to contact the system in the future if concerns arise.
3. Your child is not eligible for services. Your child, based on the evaluation, does not qualify under the eligibility guidelines. Like the previous scenario, you may receive developmental information and system contact information for future reference. You may also receive information about community resources and programs that may be appropriate for your child.

For more information or to talk with other First Steps parents, call 1-800-964-4746 or e-mail

familynetw@abousspecialkids.org



FIRST STEPS CLUSTER MAP - 2007

Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitation

Cluster A
 (219)662-7790-phone
 1-800-387-7837-toll-free
 (219) 662-7510-fax

Cluster B
 (574)293-2813-phone
 (866)725-2398-toll-free
 (574)293-2300-fax

Clusters C & H
 (765)288-7690-phone
 (866)316-9800-toll-free
 (877)288-7695-fax

Cluster D
 (765)420-1404-phone
 1-877-811-1644-toll-free
 (765)420-1406-fax
 (765)423-4235-alt.fax

Cluster E
 (574)935-8446-phone
 (866)403-5437-toll-free
 (574)935-3134-fax

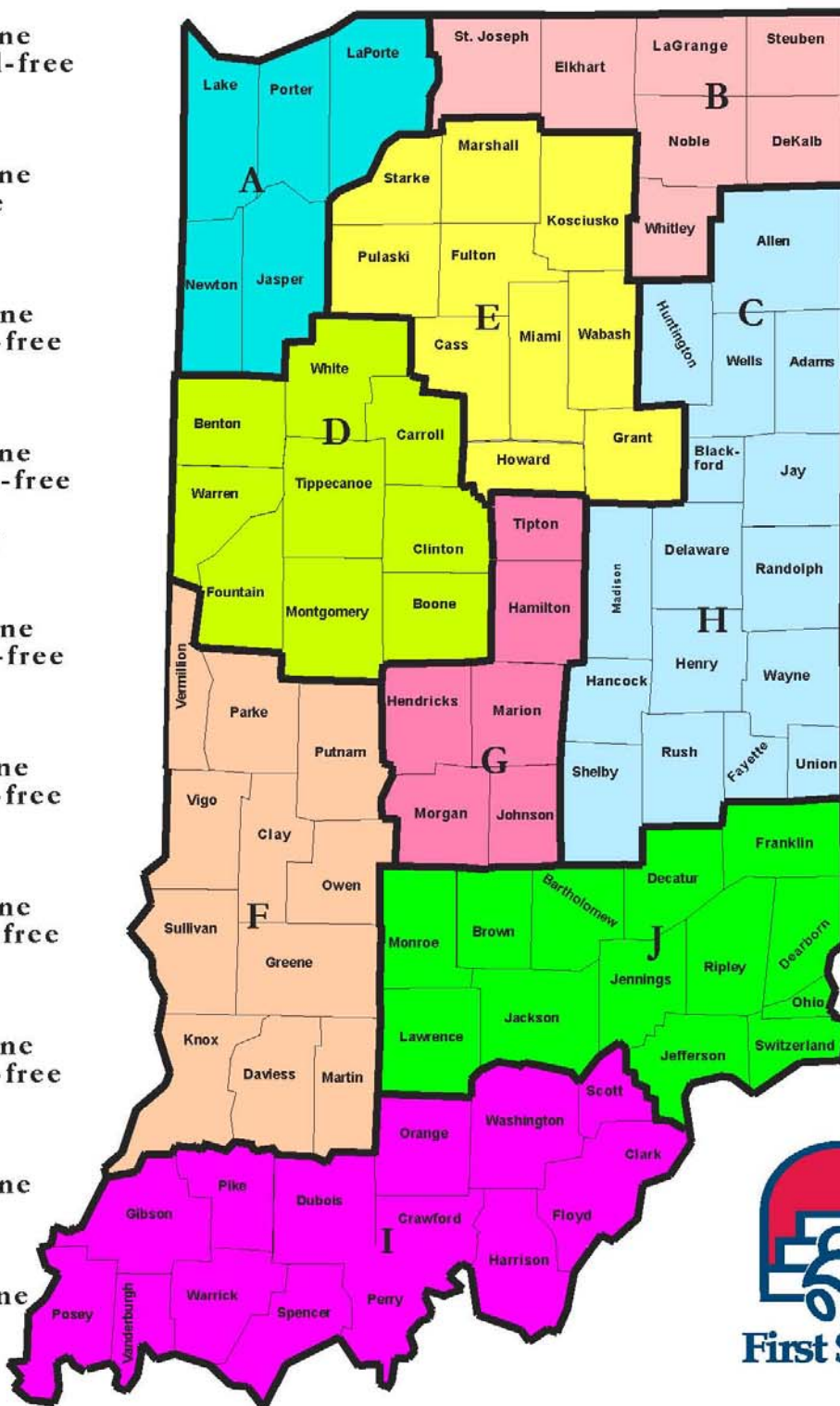
Cluster F
 (812)231-8337-phone
 (877)860-0413-toll-free
 (812)231-8166-fax

Cluster G
 (317)257-2229-phone
 (866)212-1434-toll-free
 (317)205-2592-fax

Clusters C & H
 (765)288-7690-phone
 (866)316-9800-toll-free
 (877)288-7695-fax

Cluster I
 (800)941-2450-phone
 (877)674-2285-fax

Cluster J
 (812)314-2982-phone
 (866)644-2454
 (812)373-3620-fax



First Steps Cluster Web Address
<http://www.infirststeps.com>

Effective - November, 2007

KC&Ko