

Referral Guide

SoonerStart is a program designed to help parents, other caregivers and children with developmental delays gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to be successful in life. Through early intervention visits, families will receive information, support, guidance and consultation about improving their child's quality of life as well as their own. This referral guide is intended to help you develop a better understanding of the SoonerStart program and process.

Who can make a referral to SoonerStart?

Physicians and other health professionals, family members, childcare professionals, neighbors, friends and other interested individuals.

What referral information is needed?

- Child's name, gender and date of birth
- Name, address and telephone number of parent or legal guardian
- Reason for the referral
- Child's diagnosed physical or mental condition as applicable
- Child's insurance information, if known
- Your name and contact information

Why make a SoonerStart referral?

Concerns are noted with an infant or toddler's current development based on observation, developmental screening or both. An infant or toddler may have been diagnosed with a physical or mental condition having a high probability of resulting in developmental delay. Examples include, but are not limited to, vision or hearing impairment, chromosomal abnormalities such as Down Syndrome or metabolic disorders.

How is a SoonerStart referral made?

First determine the child's current county of residence and then identify the appropriate SoonerStart office for that county using the chart on the reverse side. Contact the identified office by phone or the family may be provided with the SoonerStart office contact information—a written referral is optional.

What does the family need to know?

Participation in the SoonerStart early intervention program is voluntary. SoonerStart will complete the developmental screening, evaluation of the child's development or both at no direct cost to the family.

What happens if the child is eligible for SoonerStart services?

The family will be given the option to either accept or decline SoonerStart services. If they choose to accept, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) identifying the needed services and supports for the child and the family will be developed. The family will participate in identifying these services and supports.