We have many requirements and timelines that we must work within, so it is important that we have a way to get in touch with you.

We want to have your most current address and phone number, so please contact your Service Coordinator with any updates.

I have been emailing all of our families important information as well. If you have not received an email from me, please contact me so I can add your email address to our records.

As always I am here as a support for you and your family, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Paula Keyser
Family Resource Specialist
Phone: (727) 767-6705
Email: paula.keyser@jhmi.edu
Website: www.hopkinsallchildrens.org/earlysteps

In This Issue:
- Journey Through Early Steps 2
- Early Steps Does Work 3
- Become a Fan on Facebook 3
- New Early Steps Team Members 4
- Family Café Conference 5
- Summer Camp Info 5
- Family Surveys 6
- Next Steps Seminar 7
- Toodles Playtimes 8
YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH EARLY STEPS

1) Referral/Intake to Early Steps (Part C)

2) Call From Service Coordinator

3) First Contact Call or Visit

4) Team Evaluation

5) Team Develops Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP)

6) Receive Services Authorized On IFSP (Within 30 days)

7) Your Service Coordinator Will:
   - Check-In Every 3 Months
   - Review IFSP Every 6 Months
   - Annual IFSP Face-to-Face

8) At 24 Months Old Begin Transition Planning

9) At Age 3 Transition From Early Steps

10) Referral To Agencies (If Appropriate)

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Early Steps Does Work

My son, Jeremy (now 16 years old), benefited from Early Steps for three years which started shortly after he left the NICU. Jeremy had a grade III interventricular hemorrhage (brain bleed) prior to birth. He has survived three brain surgeries and has a VP shunt to treat Hydrocephalus. As a result of the complications from the brain bleed, he also has mild Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy. Jeremy did not walk until he was 27 months old and did not talk or eat solid foods until he was 4-1/2 years old. He is now in 10th grade at Largo High School and an honor roll student.

How Your Family Resource Specialist (FRS), Paula Keyser Can Help You

- I can assist your family with obtaining funding to attend a workshop or conference on how to teach, play or advocate for your child.
- I can assist you in finding the right book or resource in our lending library to help you and your child.
- I can help you find a local support group specific to your child’s condition or others that might be available in our area.
- I can assist and prepare you for your child’s transition (at age 3) to the local school systems in our region.
- I can provide information on other local community resources such as health insurance, housing, financial assistance and links to finding child care.
- I can offer encouragement and support you when your family is going through a difficult time.

Looking for More Help?

Online Resources
www.EarlyStepsDirectory.com

Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.
~ Charles R. Swindoll
NEW FACES of EARLY STEPS
WELCOME TO OUR TEAM

Amy
Rowe
Pinellas County

Amy joined our Early Steps team in October 2017. Amy is a Tampa native who graduated from Florida State University. Amy worked for our Early Steps program many moons ago in Pasco County when it was called EIP. Amy is excited to be back helping families in our Early Intervention program.

April
Franco
Mgr, Service Coordination/Training

April joined our team in February 2018. She has 21 years of experience working with children ages birth to five and 15 years in Early Intervention. April has a Masters Degree in Special Education and heads up our dedicated team of Service Coordinators.

Chris
Mueller
Pinellas County

Chris joined our team as a Service Coordinator in February 2018. She recently moved to Clearwater from Vermont where she did similar work supporting families with young children. Chris has a 26 year old son. “I love being outdoors, gardening, biking and kayaking. I also love to read and am passionate about early childhood literacy.”

Rachel
Hennessy
Pinellas County

Rachel Hennessy is a Florida native and has worked in Early Intervention for almost a decade. She previously worked as an Infant-Toddler Developmental Specialist before becoming a Service Coordinator for West Central Early Steps in October 2017. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Loyola University Chicago and a Master of Social Work from DePaul University.
The Family Café Annual Conference began with a simple idea. Why not bring together individuals with disabilities and their families with state agencies, non-profit organizations and other service providers, so families could network with each other, learn what services are available to them, and find out the best way to go about accessing those services? The Annual Family Café provides a unique environment where families can connect with peers, commercial service providers, and public entities. The Family Café has always believed that well-informed people make the best possible decisions for themselves and their loved ones. Check with your Family Resource Specialist about Family Involvement Funds to assist you so you can attend. The conference is free for families.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Early Steps has funding available to assist families who want to attend conferences in the State of Florida that will help them and their children. Contact your Family Resource Specialist for the application.

Need Summer Camp Info?

You can find a list of local camps and activities for the summer at the FDLRS Wikispace website http://fdlrsgulfcoastparentservices.wikispaces.com
2018 FAMILY SURVEY
February 15 - May 15, 2018

BACKGROUND:
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires Part C lead agencies to report on family outcomes resulting from families' participation in early intervention. Specifically, states must report the extent to which families report that early intervention helped them:

- Know their rights;
- Effectively communicate their child's needs; and
- Help their children develop and learn

To address this federal reporting requirement, Early Steps implements a process for families to submit a family survey. The results of the survey will be reported in Florida's Annual Performance Report to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on the Early Steps website, and to Local Early Steps to help improve the Early Steps system.

ELIGIBLE FAMILIES:
Early Steps is surveying families whose child has received Early Steps services and had an IFSP prior to November 15, 2017 and exiting during the distribution period (February 15 - May 15, 2018).

To Complete the survey, please go to: www.EarlyStepsFamilySurvey.com

All Surveys Are Confidential
NEXT STEPS SEMINAR

A seminar for families enrolled in Early Steps to learn about transition and the services available after your child turns 3 years

Monday, April 2, 2018
6:00 – 7:30pm
Stavros Institute
12100 Starkey Road, Largo, FL 33771

Space is limited! Please make reservations by calling or email:
Paula Keyser, Family Resource Specialist at (727) 767-6705
Email: paula.keyser@jhmi.edu

- FREE Limited childcare spots on-site if you RSVP
- FREE Audiological screenings (for children enrolled in Early Steps)
- FREE Pizza and drinks

If you live in Pasco, Hernando or Citrus counties and have questions about transition, you can seek assistance from your Service Coordinator or contact Paula.
Come and meet other Early Steps families and participate in unstructured Playtime with your child. If your child is enrolled in West Central Early Steps, you can be reimbursed for the participation fee.

**CENTRAL PASCO**
1st Wednesday Every Month  
10:00am-11:00am  
at Suncoast Gym  
11131 Cargo Court  
Odessa, FL 33556  
(727) 372-2211  
$6.00 per child  
1st & 3rd During Summer

**SOUTH PINELLAS**
4th Monday Every Month  
11:00am-12:00pm  
at Tampa Bay Turners  
2301 26th Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713  
(727) 328-8500  
$5.00 per child

**NORTH PINELLAS**
2nd & 4th Friday Every Month  
11:00am-12:00pm  
at FutureFlipz  
1701 Coachman Plaza Drive  
Clearwater, FL 33759  
(727) 796-3547  
$5.00 per child

**CENTRAL PASCO**
3rd Tuesday Every Month  
10:00am-11:00am  
*Not During The Summer  
at DGA  
23633 Venezia Drive  
Land O’ Lakes, FL 34639  
(813) 949-7875  
$7.00 per child

To Confirm The Most Current Schedule Please  
Contact: Paula Keyser  
at (727) 767-6705 or  
Email: paula.keyser@jhmi.edu

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