



Parents . . . Don't Delay!

A Special Report to Employees With Small Children

As a parent, you most often will be the first to know "something is wrong." You see your baby not lifting his head, reaching out, rolling over, as you think he should. Perhaps the baby just doesn't seem like your other children or other babies you see. It may not be anything definite, just something you sense.

Pathways Awareness Foundation was founded to help parents identify a physically challenging condition early in a child's life, so that those conditions can be treated as soon as possible.

Responding to Needs

Pathways Awareness Foundation was established in 1988 as a Chicago-based not-for-profit organization. The foundation's mission is to respond to the needs of children with physical challenges and to give educational and emotional support to the parents. The foundation's activities are based upon clinical experience and advice from a panel of leading physicians and clinicians in the Chicago area.

The foundation publishes a brochure which enables parents to identify movement disorders and cerebral palsy. The brochure includes pictures that show the difference between a normally developing child and one with physical difficulties.

However, it is important to remember that children with physical disabilities can have high, normal or low intelligence.

Children with physical challenges can lead more independent and productive lives when treatment is sought early. That's why the Pathways

Awareness Foundation brochure and knowing the signs to look for are so important.

More and more doctors and parents agree that early intervention is the key to controlling or correcting physical challenges, such as cerebral palsy.

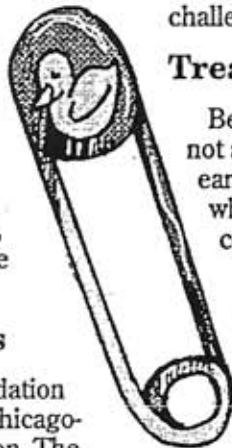
Treatment is Available

Because physical disability signs are not apparent at birth and to assure early intervention, parents must know what warning signs to notice and to consult with their doctor.

Help is available through doctors, developmental evaluation centers, neurologists, developmental pediatricians, and physical, speech, and occupational therapists who specialize in children.

For More Information

The Pathways Awareness Foundation brochure "Parents . . . Don't Delay" is endorsed by the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The brochure is available at no charge by calling 1-800-955-2445. □



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Parents who frequently notice the following signs in their infants should consult their pediatricians at once.

By three months

- unable to lift head or push up on arms
- constantly fisted hand and stiff leg on one side

By six months

- rounded back
- arms held back
- stiff crossed legs

By eight months

- cannot sit up without support
- floppy or limp body posture

BEHAVIORAL WARNING SIGNS

When physical problems appear, the following behavioral problems may be additional warning signs:

- Extreme irritability
- Failure to smile by three months
- Feeding difficulties
- Persistent gagging or choking when fed
- After six months, tongue pushes soft food out of mouth

A BUSY PARENT WRITES . . .



Wisdom From A 3-Year-Old

"One morning I was hurrying my three-year-old's dressing procedure because I had only minutes to spare.

"In the middle of the commotion and worry, my little girl cleverly enjoyed a little joke of her own about something unrelated to the job at hand. I ignored her fun and indicated my disapproval . . .

"Her sweet, thought-provoking response: 'Mommy don't we even have time to laugh?' □

Mrs. Laura DuBo