

# Early Detection and Early Intervention Can Change Lives

Parents are children's first line of defense against movement disorders. Thousands of children in America exhibit early warning signs of developmental disorders. While many pediatricians acknowledge these early warning signs, others are more reluctant to diagnose and then treat conditions such as cerebral palsy in infants. This "wait and see" approach can result in a loss of valuable treatment time. But, parents themselves can take action if they know the warning signs.

Identifying physical and behavioral signs of movement disorders, often as early as 3 months of age, and initiating therapeutic intervention are the most effective ways to minimize the effects of cerebral palsy and other physical and movement differences.

The following physical signs are of concern when they are seen most of the time:

- Poor head control after 3 months
- Stiff or rigid arms or legs
- Pushing away or arching back
- Floppy or limp body posture
- Cannot sit up without support by 8 months
- Uses only one side of body, or only the arms to crawl
- Has difficulty drinking a baby bottle or controlling liquids in the mouth

One organization that is working to spread the word about the value of early therapeutic intervention is Pathways Awareness Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to heighten public and professional awareness about early detection, early intervention and inclusion of children, youths and adults of all types of abilities.

The prognosis for children with motor delays and diagnosed cerebral palsy can be positive and optimistic. Early detection and early intervention can make a dramatic difference.

For a free brochure and more information, call 1-800-955-CHILD or visit our website at [www.pathways.org](http://www.pathways.org).

*"From birth, a baby's brain cells proliferate wildly, making connections that may shape a lifetime of experience. The first three years are critical."*

*-Time Magazine*



## Are you concerned about your baby's development?

Early diagnosis is crucial to receiving treatment that maximizes a child's potential. The earlier you recognize a concern and seek professional help, the more likely your child can be helped.

*Is My Baby Okay?* is a 30-minute video that empowers parent to recognize potential warning signs that could be indicators of a developmental concern. Only \$9.95 (includes tax & shipping)

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[www.pathwaysawareness.org](http://www.pathwaysawareness.org)

## Pathways Awareness Foundation

### ABOUT PATHWAYS AWARENESS FOUNDATION...

Established in 1988, the Pathways Awareness Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to education for and about children with movement and physical challenges, and their families. The activities of the Foundation are based upon the expertise of the Pathways Medical Round Table, which is comprised of leading physicians, clinicians and lay advisors. Pathways gained its name from the belief that the brain can create new connections if the old connections no longer work.