

First Steps

First Steps is the name of Kentucky's state-wide early intervention system.

The program is administered by the Department for Public Health in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. First Steps provides services to children with developmental disabilities from birth to age three.

Depending upon the needs of the child and the availability of services in each area, services may be provided:

At Home

In Center-Based
Programs

In Clinical Settings

Families who use First Steps services may pay a monthly participation fee known as the **Family Share**. The amount of the Family Share is determined by a sliding fee scale based on the family's size and earned income. Families of children who qualify for Medicaid or KCHIP are not required to pay the Family Share.

Children are determined eligible for First Steps:

Through an evaluation that shows the child is not developing typically in one of five skill areas: cognition, communication, physical, social/ emotional, or self-help.

Some children will automatically qualify based on a physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay, such as Down Syndrome.

Anyone can refer a child for First Steps services.

To make a referral, call Kentucky Early
Intervention System at: (877) 417-8377