



Early Identification and Referral for Children who are Deaf-Blind

BRENT A. ASKVIG, PH.D.

HILORY LICCINI, M.S.

North Dakota Dual Sensory Project

The North Dakota Dual Sensory Project is a statewide technical assistance and training program funded by the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, Office of Special Education. It is housed at the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University. We provide technical assistance and training to support educators and families of children birth through 21 who are deaf-blind.

What does *deaf-blind* mean?

“Deaf-blindness means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.” *IDEA 2004; 2015*

Deaf-blind

“Concomitant” –
associated, linked,
connected

Both vision and hearing
impairments are present

*“causes such severe
communication and other
developmental and
educational needs”*

About 90% of children who
are deaf-blind have multiple
support needs

*“cannot be accommodated in special
education programs solely for children with
deafness or children with blindness”*

The children need a team!

Who are these children in ND?

37 ND children on the latest census
(36 on IEP/IFSP)

Age	Number
0 - 2	2
3 - 5	8
6 - 11	12
12 - 17	9
18 - 21	5

29 ND children have 1 or more conditions beyond deaf-blindness

Conditions/syndromes	#
Cortical vision impairment (CVI)	7
Complex health care needs	21
Orthopedic or physical impairment	24
CHARGE syndrome	5
Usher syndrome	4

Why do we want to identify and refer children who are/will be deaf-blind?

- ❖ Determine prevailing causes/conditions within the population
- ❖ Determine nature of services received/needed by children and families
- ❖ Prepare personnel for general and specific needs of the population
- ❖ Provide technical assistance and training for families, early intervention providers and school personnel
- ❖ Obtain and distribute information and resources for families and educators
- ❖ Participate in a nation-wide compilation of information about children and their needs

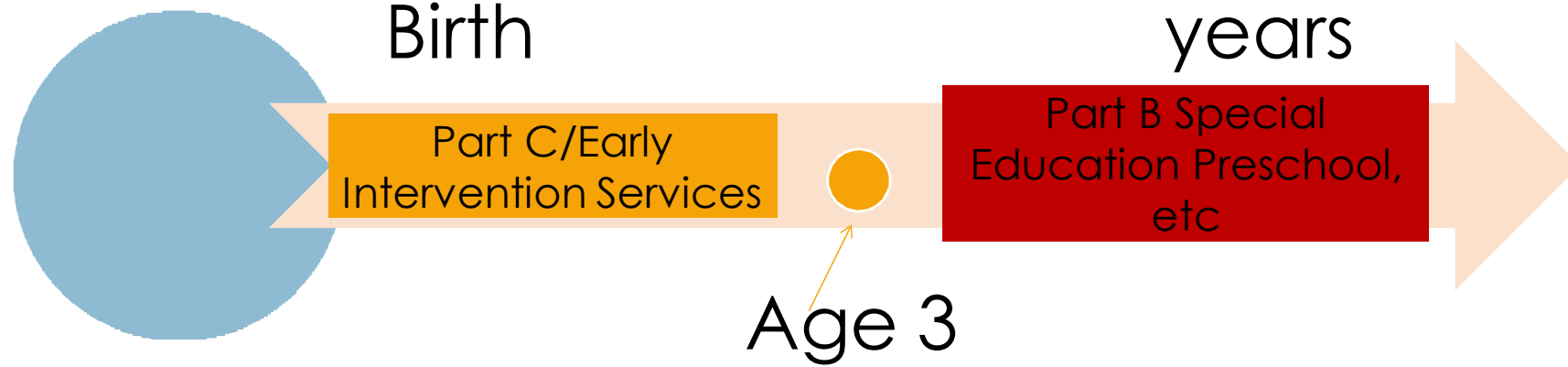
How do we identify children who are/may be deaf-blind?

- ❖ Accurate screening and clinical diagnostic measurements of vision and hearing
- ❖ Functional evaluations of use of hearing and vision
- ❖ Links to specific confirmed genetic or post-natal conditions
- ❖ Educational labels from IFSPs or IEPs
- ❖ Suspected diagnoses that are yet to be confirmed with additional testing

Early child screening

- ❖ Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (ND EHDI) hearing screening
- ❖ Vision Screening (ND School for the Blind/Vision Services, early intervention, physician, etc.)
- ❖ General developmental screening (Head Start, pre-schools, school district, etc)
- ❖ Physician screening
- ❖ NICU clinics
- ❖ Disability specific/condition specific screenings through Dept of Health, Children Special Health Services clinics

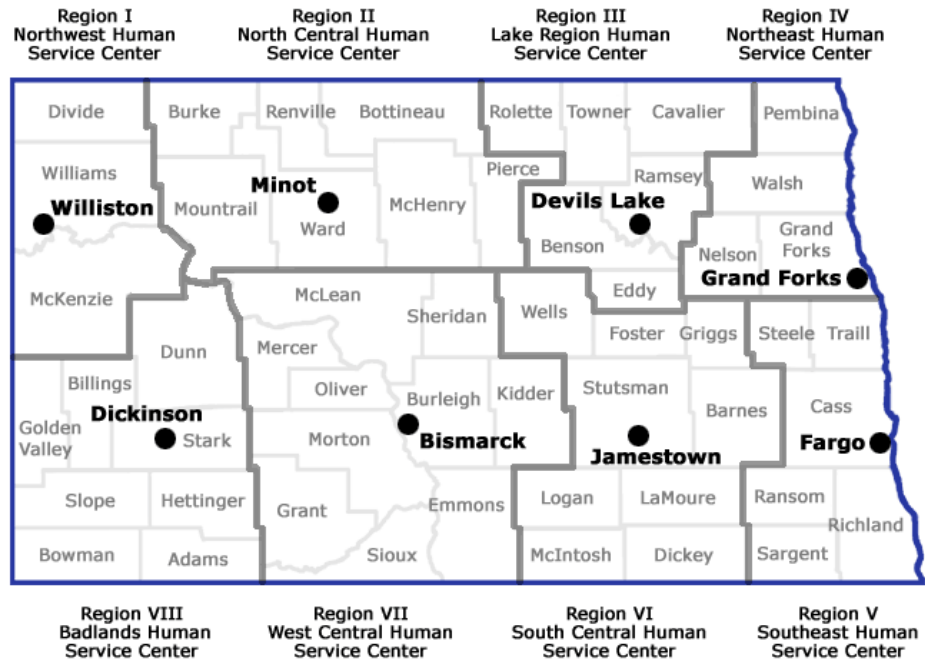
IDEA Intervention Services by Age



Early Intervention (Part C) Services

- **A statewide system that provides coordinated services to parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays**
- **Served by local EI team: service coordinator, service providers, family**
- **In family home or other places family spend time**
- **Develop a coordinated plan called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)**

Part C Regional Resources



- ⊕ [Williston](#)
- ⊕ [Dickinson](#)

- ⊕ [Minot](#)
- ⊕ [Bismarck](#)

- ⊕ [Devils Lake](#)
- ⊕ [Jamestown](#)

- ⊕ [Grand Forks](#)
- ⊕ [Fargo](#)

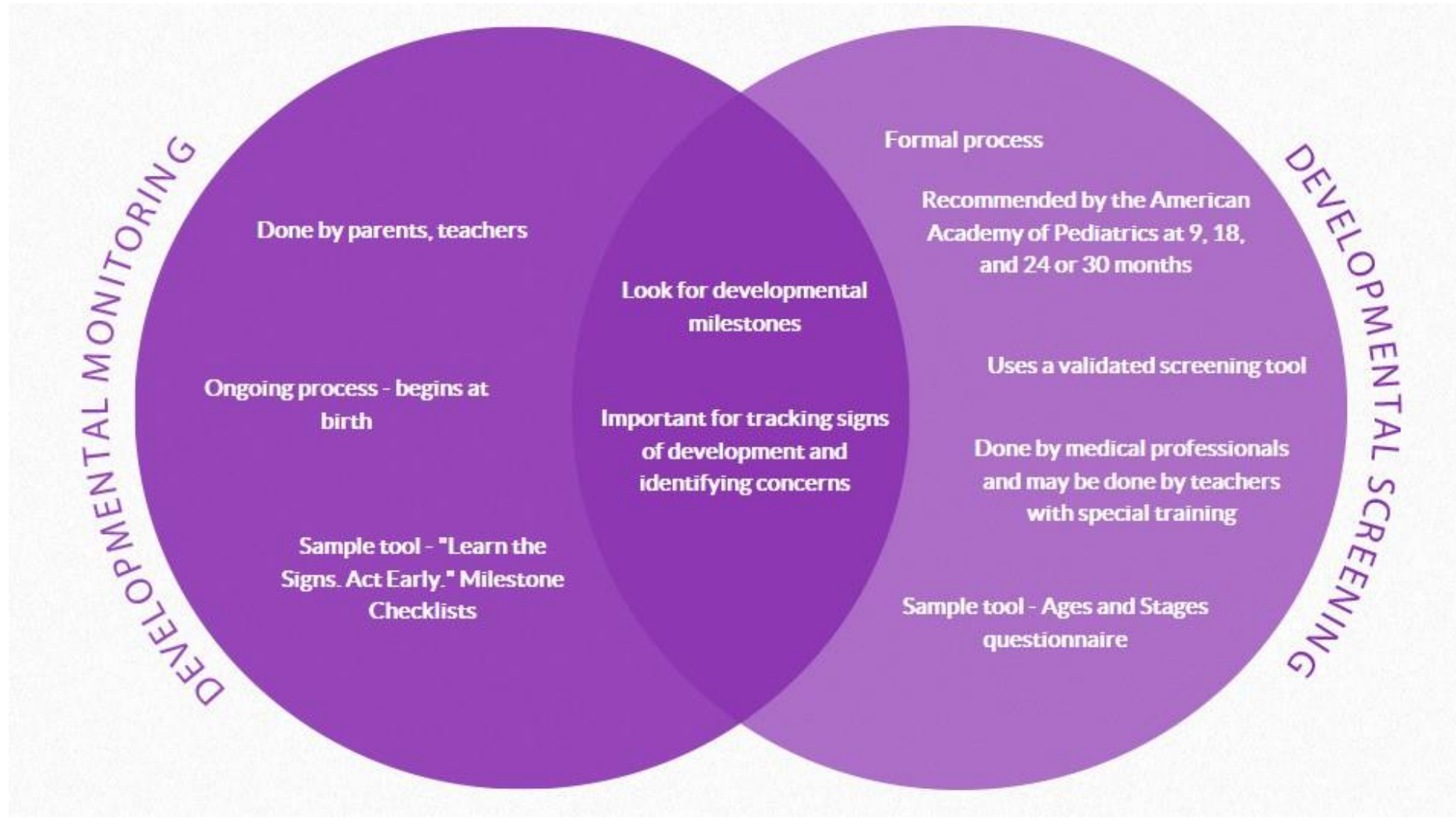
Part B Education Resource

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/education-programs/special-education>

Developmental Monitoring

When beginning to monitor development, it is important to look at developmental milestones. These are behaviors/skills most children can do by a certain age. It also is important to consider this in the context of the family's culture.



Typical Child Development

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly










Milestone Resources

Milestone Tracker App

CDC's FREE Milestone Tracker App

Because milestones matter!

-  Milestone checklists for 2 months to 5 years
-  Summary of your child's milestones
-  Activities to help your child's development
-  Tips for what to do if you have concerns
-  Appointment reminders



GET IT ON Google Play Available on the App Store

Learn more at cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker

Milestone Moments Books



Milestone Moments
Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You can follow your child's development by watching how he or she plays, learns, speaks, and acts. Look inside for milestones to watch for in your child and how you can help your child learn and grow.



Your Child at 18 Months

Test with your child's doctor or early care about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

What children do at this age

- Social/Emotional**
 - Starts to have things to others
 - May play to compare to new situations
 - May be afraid of strangers
 - Shows affection to familiar people
 - Plays single pretend, such as feeding a doll
 - May play to compare to new situations
 - Needs to show others something interesting
 - Explains alone but with parent nearby
- Language/Communication**
 - Says several single words
 - Says and understands "no"
 - Points to show someone what he wants
- How you can help your child's development**
 - Provide a safe, busy environment to explore and experiment and provide choices
 - Provide good behaviors more than you punish bad behaviors (use only one word like "no")
 - Describe her emotions. For example, say, "He is happy when we read this book."
 - Encourage pretend play
 - Encourage empathy. For example, when he sees a child who is sad, encourage him to help or play with the other child
 - Read books and talk about the pictures using single words or say your child's words
 - Use words that describe feelings and emotions
 - Use simple, clear phrases
 - Ask simple questions



WHERE IS BEAR?
A Tenth Tale for 2-Year-Olds



Amazing Me
It's Doing Things!

North Dakota's Infant Hearing Road Map

For an interactive version visit www.ndcpd.org/ehdi
or call 1.800.233.1737 for more information

SCREEN before 1 Month



1st Hearing Screen: Date: <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	Hearing Screen Results: Left Ear Right Ear <input type="checkbox"/> Did not pass <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Not screened <input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing Screen Passed: <input type="checkbox"/> Testing is done. Watch for normal hearing and speech development. Share results with your doctor.	Hearing Screen Missed or Did Not Pass: <input type="checkbox"/> Share results with your doctor. Schedule an outpatient screen.	Schedule with one of the following: <input type="checkbox"/> the Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Right Track <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Tracking
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DIAGNOSE before 3 Months

<input type="checkbox"/> Contact your region's Infant Development Program (Part C).	If your baby has a CONFIRMED HEARING LOSS: <input type="checkbox"/> Contact the Parent Infant Program.	If your child DID NOT PASS the screen and rescreen, schedule an appointment with a Pediatric Audiologist. Place: <input type="text"/> Date: <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	Hearing Screen Results: Left Ear Right Ear <input type="checkbox"/> Did not pass <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Outpatient Hearing Screen (or Rescreen): Place: <input type="text"/> Date: <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>
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EARLY INTERVENTION before 6 Months

<input type="checkbox"/> Schedule an evaluation with an ENT.	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact Family Support Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Enroll in Early Intervention Services	Continue with regular visits to your pediatric audiologist.	Continue PIP and Part C. Continue with family support programs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Learn about communication options. <input type="checkbox"/> Learn about hearing aids and/or cochlear implants if recommended.	Evaluations to discuss with your provider: - Ophthalmologist - Genetic Specialist
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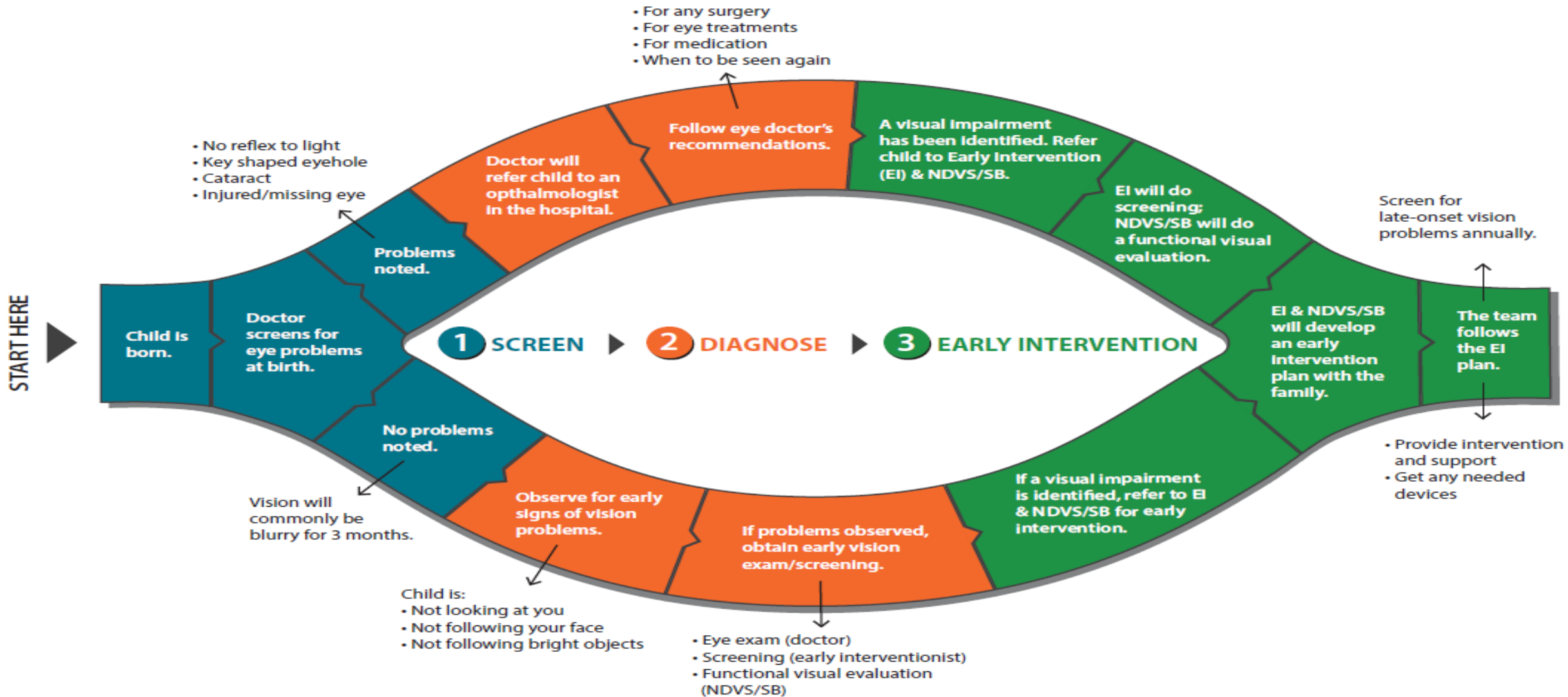
For assistance with your child's hearing results or for a list of pediatric audiologists, contact ND EMDI at 1.800.233.1737 or www.ndcpd.org/ehdi.



North Dakota's Vision Roadmap

Contact the ND Dual-Sensory Project at 1-800-245-3711

North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind (NDVS/SB) and Early Intervention (EI)



Resources from the ND Dual Sensory Project

- ❖ Information about testing and diagnosis
- ❖ Connections to specialists to determine vision and hearing capabilities
- ❖ Online or print resources on deaf-blindness conditions
- ❖ Information on evidence-based practices for education and instruction
- ❖ Family/parent resources and information

ND Dual Sensory Project

500 University Avenue West,

Minot State University,

Minot, ND 58707

1-800-233-1737

<http://www.ndcpd.org/dualsensory.html>

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