

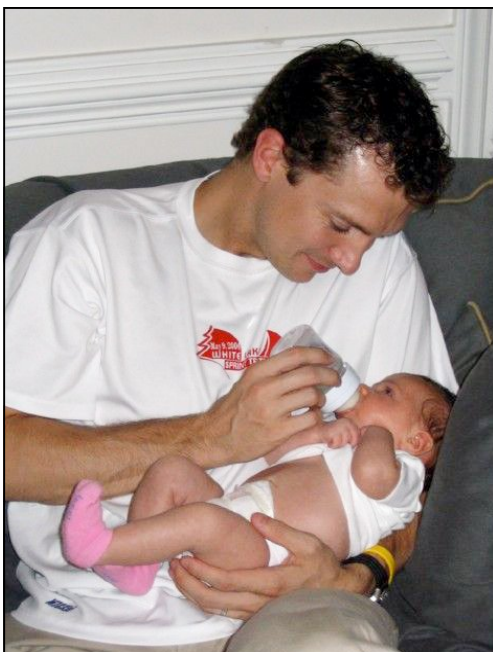
Pre-term Infants

Pre-term infants have a greater risk for developmental delays than full term infants. They also have additional medical issues which can further influence their development.

When a baby is born early, delayed gross motor, fine motor, oral motor and visual skills may result. Research shows preterm infants have difficulty calming, have more disorganized sleep for shorter periods of time, have poor tolerance to stimulation in the home environment such as too much noise, too bright, too much movement, etc. where they are unable to achieve and maintain an organized state to interact with others and participate in feedings. They may have poor tolerance to sidelying and tummy time positions and have more difficulty with trunk rotation and weight bearing through their arms.

The therapists at Primary Therapy Source specialize in the treatment of babies, especially preterm infants. Our knowledge of newborn development and behavior assessment provides the basis for examination and treatment. We provide thorough evaluations which include standardized assessments of motor performance for pre-term infants, neuro-motor development and sensory integration, oral motor and feeding, motor function, posture, joint mobility, arousal, attention and cognition, ventilation and respiration, and identifying any further assessment needs for the infant.

If the infant requires therapy intervention, the therapists at Primary Therapy Source assist parents in developing therapy goals for their child including achievement of age appropriate motor development. Assisting the baby to move into and out of postures and locomotion are common therapy goals. In addition, we provide parents with guidance in managing environmental stressors and teach them infant self-calming techniques. An important part of therapy for pre-term infants includes a developmentally appropriate home program with ongoing guidance in changes for optimum goal achievement.



Any concerns about your baby's development should be discussed with your baby's physician. Keep in mind premature infants may achieve milestones closer to their adjusted age. Your baby's therapist will be able to assist you in the most appropriate activities, positions and exercises to promote your child's ability to develop gross and fine motor skills age appropriately. As a member of your child's medical team, the therapists at Primary Therapy Source will assist your child to optimize their development.



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Treating you to a better life.