

## “Did You Know?” FAQ about Space Coast Early Steps

1. Early Steps can help Pediatricians or other primary care providers make families more comfortable in accepting that their child may have a developmental issue. Many parents are reluctant to accept that their child may be developmentally delayed and resist having their child “labeled.” Pediatricians can reassure parents that there is no harm in “just getting things checked out”. The Early Steps team is respectful of the stress that parents go through as they come to realize that their child has special needs and would like to partner with the medical home in providing quality help for the family as early on as possible.
2. Early Steps offers evaluations to help parents with young children who are having developmental and/or behavioral issues. Some of these children may have sensory issues, or other underlying challenges. For others, Early Steps can direct the parent to community resources.
3. Early Steps does NOT provide Diagnostic Evaluations. If you suspect a child may have autism, or another issue that warrants a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation, please refer them to a Psychologist, Developmental Pediatrician, or other specialist for diagnosis.
4. Early Steps has infant feeding specialists that help infants who may have a hard time feeding/sucking/swallowing.
5. Early Steps can provide physical therapy for infants with torticollis. Torticollis is a condition where the baby’s head is persistently turned and tilted to one side.
6. Early Steps offers functional vision and hearing screens. We work with pediatricians to support families in obtaining appropriate audiological/vision services.
7. Children who receive developmental supports very early on have the best long-term outcomes.
8. Early Steps provides support groups and education for parents regarding a wide range of topics.
9. Early Steps providers are trained in Evidence Based Practices that support caregivers in a child’s natural environment – where they live, learn and play.
10. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends **screening ALL** children for symptoms of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) through a combination of developmental surveillance at ALL visits and **standardized autism screening at 18 and 24 months of age**. Children with ASD can be identified as toddlers and Early Intervention can and does influence outcomes. (AAP Clinical Report, January 2020)