



Children's Health Initiative

Overview

It's clear that there's a strong link between health and well-being early in life and health and well-being later in life. That's why HealthPartners is working to improve the health and well-being of children from pregnancy through age five by concentrating on 10 areas of focus known as our Children's Health Initiative.

The three broad aims of the initiative are to promote early brain development, provide family-centered care and to strengthen communities.

This long-term initiative includes the following areas of focus:

- **Read, Talk, Sing** encourages every parent to read, talk and sing to their children
- **Social Emotional Development** identifies and refers children with social/emotional delays
- **Chemical-Free Beginnings** promotes drug, alcohol and tobacco free pregnancies
- **Breastfeeding Promotion** encourages mothers to feed their babies only human milk for the first six months
- **Standard Workflows** supports long-term health goals for children
- **OB-Pediatric-Family Medicine Collaboration** supports coordinated care for families and children across pediatrics, family practice, obstetrics and community resources
- **Postpartum Depression** adds depression screening to the list of preventive services for new mothers
- **Decrease Teen Pregnancy** works to make long-term birth control methods available, develops clinic standards and partners in the community
- **Supporting High-Risk Families** expands access to community programs for at-risk families
- **Early Childhood Experience** screens every child for exposure to harmful events that might impact a child's development

Did you know ...

- As early as two months of age, an infant whose mother has depression looks at her less often, is less interested in toys and objects and is less active than other babies.
- Two thirds of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on public assistance.
- As many as one-half of American children with a developmental delay will not be identified by the time they enter kindergarten, even though most will show mild developmental delays by two years of age.