

FIRST STEPS FAMILIES FEBRUARY 2012

The editor of First Steps Families is a mom that had a child in the First Steps program. Hopefully the information shared will provide you with helpful resources for your family. To conserve resources and to make sure you don't miss out on helpful information, please send your e-mail address to Connie Covert at cccoov2@uky.edu to receive the newsletter electronically or call me at 859-257-6427 to arrange for a hard copy.

Connie



ONE FAMILY'S STORY

My name is Lynn, and I would like to tell you about my daughter Maggie.

We were introduced to the First Steps program by our pediatrician. She was concerned that Maggie had a significant speech delay. Since she was a twin, she seemed to let her brother do most of the communication.

We had an evaluation by First Steps and they too saw that Maggie needed early intervention services, and they took on the task. We were given a list of providers for the program and began services immediately. Our worker was a lady that we knew, Melissa Pierce from Leitchfield. We were truly blessed with Melissa. She worked weekly with Maggie teaching her to use words to communicate instead of pointing and grunting as she had been doing. She was great. Maggie looked forward to Ms. Lissa's visits. (see photo)



Maggie progressed really well with the program, and I can not say enough good things about First Steps. If you think that your child may have a delay of any kind, whether it is speech delay like Maggie's or whether it is a physical delay there are a lot of special things that the First Steps program can offer you and your child.

Maggie and her brother Cordale, who was also in the First Steps program for social interactive skills, have aged out of the First Steps program. Maggie and Cordale qualified and moved on to Preschool services. Our success story is only one of many, but don't let me just tell you how great the program is without finding out for yourself. You can be referred to First Steps through your pediatrician like we were, or you can call the program directly. Don't wait. The program is for early child development for children under the age of three. If you want more information or have questions, call First Steps today.

Do you have a success story you would like to share?

Never underestimate the power of your story. A well-told story has the potential to touch hearts and minds. While impersonally delivered facts can easily be forgotten or dismissed, a story lingers and mingles with all the other stories that shape our shared human experience. What you share will likely encourage other families in similar situations. Family stories can also help professionals receive the encouragement and motivation they need to continue in their work and to find new, creative ways to make a difference in a child's life. We would love to hear from you. If you would like to share, please contact Connie at cccoov2@uky.edu

PARENT CONSULTANT

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We are on the Web:
[http://chfs.ky.gov/
dph/firststeps.htm](http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/firststeps.htm)

NEW FIRST STEPS WEB- SITE!

On March 1st, First Steps will launch its new website. The address will be ky-firststeps.org, and it will contain lots of information including the Central Directory of Early Intervention Resources.

It will not replace the Cabinet website (address above) but will be in addition to it.



NOTICE OF FIRST STEPS RECORDS

In accordance with Part C of the IDEA

February 2012

First Steps creates and maintains an early intervention record on each child referred to First Steps. This record is maintained in two formats—a paper copy that includes your original signatures on consents, copies of correspondence and documentation from early intervention providers such as test protocols and an electronic record that contains information gathered at point of referral through exit from First Steps. These records are kept at the First Steps Point of Entry (POE) and maintained for a period of six (6) years from the last date of service. You will be notified that the POE is planning to destroy your child's record at least thirty (30) days before the destruction occurs.

First Steps gathers information about your child and family through interviews, administration of assessments, and gathering documents from others who have pertinent information about your child. You must give written consent for First Steps to obtain or release information about your child. This information is used to determine eligibility for First Steps and plan early intervention services. Should your child receive early intervention services from First Steps, the individuals who work with your family will write a note in the electronic record for each service they have provided. This information is also used for billing purposes.

As your child nears three (3) years of age, your child's name, your name, and address will be forwarded to the school district in which you reside without your consent. This is required by Federal law so that if your child is eligible for special education, the transition from First Steps to the school district will be smooth and effective. You have the right to not have this information shared with the school district. You must sign and return a Transition Information Form (FS-11) to opt out of this disclosure.

You have rights regarding the records maintained by First Steps. You have the right:

- * to inspect and review early intervention records. The POE must provide the record to you for inspection within 10 days.
- * to explanations or interpretations of early intervention records.
- * to copies of the records if failure to provide copies keeps you from viewing the record.
- * to have a representative inspect or review the record.
- * to request a list of the types and locations of early intervention records collected, maintained, or used by the POE.
- * to a copy of each evaluation, assessment, and IFSP at no cost to you.
- * to request that an early intervention record be amended if you believe the information in the record is not accurate. If the POE refuses to amend the record, you must be notified of this.
- * to request a due process hearing to challenge the information in your child's early intervention record.

If you have questions about your child's record or the information above, contact your service coordinator.