



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

Developmental TIPS

An invitation for you
and your baby



Questions?

Contact your NICU or the Developmental TIPS coordinating staff at:

1-402-559-7368 or

1-800-656-3937 (ext. 9-7368)

devtips@unmc.edu

What is Developmental TIPS?

Developmental TIPS (Tracking Infant Progress Statewide) is a program that provides specialized developmental follow-up for babies who have been in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

The Developmental TIPS program has two main goals:

- To provide a developmental follow-up for all infants who have had an NICU experience in Nebraska
- To gather information about how babies who have been in the NICU grow and develop, in order to better meet their unique needs in the future



Why should my baby participate?

Your baby was admitted to the NICU for several days or more. This means your baby's condition was serious enough at birth that health and development should be monitored more closely than most infants.

Concerns addressed early often can be resolved much more satisfactorily than those that remain unresolved until later in life. Sometimes it can be reassuring just to hear that your baby is doing fine.

What do I need to do to participate?

Once you have received all the information you need about this program, you will be asked to sign a release of information.

This allows us to exchange information with your baby's primary physician, the hospital and the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute which will be responsible for working with you to arrange follow-up and collect outcome information.

Do I need this program if I already have a doctor for my baby?

The answer is YES! Developmental TIPS does not take the place of seeing your regular doctor, but because of your baby's unique NICU experience, having a specialized team to help monitor your baby's development is an essential part of follow-up care.

How will my baby's progress be followed?

Developmental TIPS offers three options for follow-up.

The type of follow-up recommended for your baby will be discussed with you around the time of his/her discharge from the NICU.

1. FOLLOW-UP BY QUESTIONNAIRE

Babies who have had a fairly smooth NICU experience will be followed by a developmental questionnaire. This questionnaire will be sent to your home around four key periods of development: 6 months, 16 months, 2 years and 3 years of age.

These times will be based on corrected age for premature babies. Families will be asked to complete and return the survey for scoring.

2. FOLLOW-UP BY DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

Those babies whose hospital stay was more complicated will be asked to come to a clinic during the same key periods for developmental screening by a team of specialists.

3. FOLLOW-UP BY COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Sometimes your health care team will recommend that your baby be evaluated for services to help promote his/her development through the local school district or Early Development Network. If your child qualifies for services, Developmental TIPS will still contact you to obtain follow-up information. In some situations your physician may recommend that your baby be seen in clinic so that the developmental pediatrician can evaluate him/her.

If my baby needs to be seen in a clinic, where will it be held?

Five clinic sites will be available in four cities across the state of Nebraska:

- Lincoln
- Omaha (two clinic locations)
- Scottsbluff
- Kearney

If it is not convenient to take your child to one of our clinics, your baby's development can be monitored by a set of questionnaires that you fill out and return to the clinic by mail.

Is there a cost for my baby's clinic visit?

At this time, there is no cost to families for any of the follow-up activities. The cost has been shared by the Developmental TIPS partners.

Developmental TIPS is a collaborative program coordinated through the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.

The following organizations are partners in the Developmental TIPS program:



Kearney, Nebraska



1-402-559-7368

1-800-656-3937 (ext. 9-7368)

devtips@unmc.edu

