



Family  
Outreach

Helena — 1212 Helena Avenue, 443-7370  
Butte — 641 Sampson, 494-1242  
Bozeman — 1315 E. Main Street, 587-2477

Missoula — T-214 Fort Missoula, 549-6413  
Kalispell — 1725 MT Highway 35, 755-2425



## An Overview of the Process for the Missoula NICU Follow-Up Screening Clinic

NICU Follow-Up Screening Clinics are held bi-monthly in Missoula in collaboration with Community Medical Center. Early screening in the areas of hearing (as needed), physical growth, communication, motor development, and cognitive or problem-solving skills is completed on babies 6, 12, 18, and 24 or 30 months of age. The **Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development, (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)** is the formal assessment instrument used at the NICU clinics.

NICU clinics are designed to screen babies that have a risk factor or high probability of exhibiting developmental delays. The primary purpose of screening is to identify children who may need further evaluation, however, NICU clinics also can be used to determine eligibility for Part C services. Screening needs to be a collaborative effort, incorporating a multidisciplinary approach to include parents, doctors, nurses, therapists, and cognitive specialists (FSS's). Multiple sources of information to include observation, social/medical history, formal instruments, and parent report should be included in the screening process. Referrals to appropriate early intervention services should be the ultimate outcome of the screening process when appropriate.

NICU Clinic referrals are completed by doctors and/or nurses and have a designated criteria. All referrals have to be made with parental notification and approval. All clinics are mandatory and are at no cost to families. Reasonable accommodations will be met for multiples (i.e., twins, triplets, quadruplets, etc.) or families with unique considerations. Other assessment tools may be implemented to determine strengths and weaknesses in development (e.g., Preschool Language Scale, Early Language Milestones, Peabody).

### **Referral Criteria for NICU Clinics:**

1. Birth weight is less than 1500 grams or gestational age is 32 weeks or less
2. SGA (Small for Gestational Age) or IUGR (Intrauterine Growth Retardation)
3. Apgar Score that is less than or equal to 3 at 5 minutes
4. Failed hearing screen
5. Congenital syndromes with unknown prognosis
6. By order of physician or health care provider
7. Neurological abnormalities (intracranial hemorrhage, seizures, meningitis, hydrocephaly, hypotonia, hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy)
8. Hyperbilirubinemia greater than or equal to 30, or double volume exchange transfusion (consider referral for Bili 25-29)
9. Polycythemia: venous Hematocrit (HCT) greater than or equal to 70 or partial exchange transfusion (consider referral for HCT 65-69).
10. Prenatal exposure to alcohol and/or drugs, or positive toxicology screening

*Helping children with developmental delays reach their potential*