



## Help Me Grow – Long Island: Information for Community Partners

### What is Help Me Grow – Long Island?

Help Me Grow – Long Island is a **FREE** resource connecting families and providers to community resources and child development information in Nassau and Suffolk counties, with the mission of promoting optimal development of Long Island's young children. More specifically, we offer the following services in English and Spanish:

- **Developmental questionnaires:** the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), for children ages 0-65 months (approx. 5.5 years)
- **Information** on general child development and parenting topics
- **Referrals** to community resources that support child development
- **Care coordination** to ensure that families successfully connect with suggested resources
- **Partnerships** with child health and service providers to ensure developmental support for young children

### The Help Me Grow – Long Island Partnership

*Help Me Grow – Long Island* isn't an agency, but a partnership based on a national model for organizing existing agencies with the goal of more efficiently and effectively reaching and helping at-risk children. The HMG model calls for promotion of early developmental screening via a centralized access point, as well as outreach through community organizations and health providers. HMG-LI is managed by Docs for Tots, housed at the Child Care Council of Nassau, and utilizes the phone system and resource database from United Way of Long Island's 2-1-1 system.

### About HMG-LI Referrals

HMG seeks to provide developmental health promotion and screening, and any resulting referral and follow-up to meet the needs of families with young children. This may include Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) services such as Early Intervention and Committee on Preschool Special Education. Families and professionals with concerns about an infant from birth to five years who has, or is suspected of having, a delay or a disability will be referred to the appropriate county or school district service for evaluation, as well as be connected to the Long Island Early Childhood Direction Center for further guidance.

#### **For more information contact:**

Help Me Grow – Long Island Bilingual Family Resource Specialist Blanca Franco: 516-548-8924 blanca@hmgli.org  
Help Me Grow – Long Island Coordinator Melissa Passarelli: 631-662-3176 melissa@docsfortots.org  
Or visit [www.helpmegrowny.org](http://www.helpmegrowny.org)



### “What’s in it for me?”

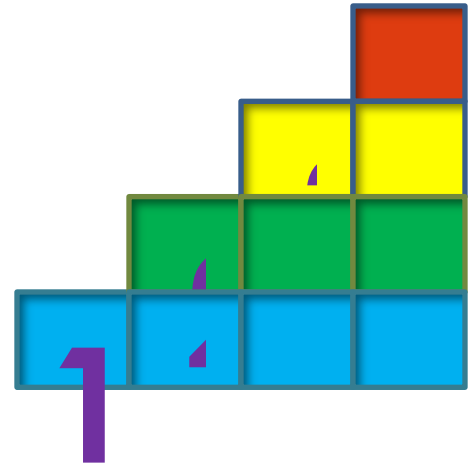
Help Me Grow – Long Island offers numerous benefits to programs:

- **Early Intervention Providers:** HMG-LI can provide care coordination and community linkages for families not eligible for IDEA Part C services
- **Early Care Providers:** HMG-LI can provide free training and materials for standardized developmental screening at your site, as well as offer care coordination as needed for the families you serve
- **Community-Based Organizations:** By connecting families you serve to HMG-LI, you can help make your support more comprehensive (using little staff effort!)
- **Home Visitors:** Home visitors have to meet a wide range of family needs. HMG-LI can be a key partner in accessing and linking families to resources

### Partnering with Help Me Grow – Long Island: A Win-Win-Win!

We want to work with you to improve developmental health outcomes for Long Island families. Collaborating with Help Me Grow – Long Island can be beneficial for the partnership, your program, and the families you serve. There are four different “levels” of partnership, each building upon the other:

1. **Awareness:** HMG-LI and your organization are aware of each other’s services and have a point of contact for referrals
2. **Outreach:** HMG-LI provides educational materials to share with your families *\*\*Potential for families to provide feedback to improve HMG-LI services*
3. **Training:** HMG-LI provides in-service to staff and/or families about child development/screening/HMG-LI
4. **Screening:** Your agency provides direct developmental screening through HMG-LI. Includes establishing referral pathways to best suit the needs of your families



Think one of these options can work for you and the families you serve?  
Reach out to Help Me Grow – Long Island Coordinator Melissa Passarelli at 631-662-3176 or [Melissa@docsfortots.org](mailto:Melissa@docsfortots.org)!

To use Help Me Grow – Long Island:

- Call 2-1-1, select your language, then press 7 to be connected to Help Me Grow or Call (516) 548-8924 to speak to our Bilingual Family Resource Specialist directly!
- Visit our website for a free developmental screen: [www.helpmegrowny.org](http://www.helpmegrowny.org)

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