

The Fenger Family Story

Help Me Grow Carver County provides information about child development and availability of special services for eligible children ages Birth to Kindergarten. It was previously known as First Step.

Melissa and Ben Fenger of Victoria and their children Emily and Isabella became connected with Help Me Grow after Melissa delivered Emily at 29 weeks. When Emily was born, Melissa and Ben thought she possibly had club feet and spina bifida. “When we started with Help Me Grow and early intervention, Emily was 6 or 7 months old. The teacher and the physical therapist came and worked with Emily. When we delivered our second child Isabella at 26 weeks, she spent 5 weeks at the NICU and 7 weeks in the level 2 nursery at Methodist. Isabella started services after coming home from the hospital. We had the same teacher with both children, but different physical therapists. We learned how to strengthen neck muscles and utilized numerous resources. We have now not only caught up to the needed milestones but are working on advanced skills.”

She continues, “Everyone in the Help Me Grow early intervention program is so helpful. We received reassurances that we were doing the right thing to help our kids, not missing anything or lagging behind in skills. As a stay-at-home mom with a preemie, we couldn’t do playgroups. Having people come to the house means there is less exposure to germs and the weather elements. With a first child, you are a bit clueless and the Help Me Grow people give you the help and reassurance. Emily caught up to her “real age” milestones at 16 months versus the adjusted age milestones. We are so thankful to have these services.”

The Fenger family encourages using the Help Me Grow and early intervention services. “The additional set of eyes and parental support are wonderful. If you have the opportunity to use them, do. Give your child the best you can before they start school.”

For more information, visit www.MNParentsKnow.info. If you have questions or concerns about your child’s development, you can call help Me Grow Carver County at 952-368-0160. Statewide, you can call 1-866-693-4769.

