



Interdisciplinary perspectives on premature birth

Birmingham City University - July 2017



What is premature birth?

- Babies born before 37 weeks are considered to have been born prematurely.
- Medical language to describe premature babies - who are sometimes referred to as preterm - is based on how long they have been in the womb and how much they weigh.

<http://www.bliss.org.uk/what-is-a-premature-birth>

The following definitions are provided by the World Health Organisation:

- Length of time in womb (Gestation)
- Term - A baby that has spent at least 37 weeks in the womb
- Preterm - Born before 37 weeks
- Very preterm - Born between 28 and 32 weeks
- Extremely preterm - Born at or before 28 weeks

Weight

- Low birthweight - Born weighing less than 2500g (5lbs)
- Very low birthweight - Born weighing less than 1500g (3lbs)
- Extremely low birthweight - Born weighing less than 1000g (2lbs)

Corrected age

Reaching developmental milestones may take a little longer for premature babies by comparison with babies born at full term. This is because they are in fact younger and your baby should be assessed according to their corrected age. This is the age they are from their term due date. Your baby's development will be regularly assessed and monitored by their healthcare professional. This should reassure you that your baby is doing well and also address any concerns you may have (www.bliss.org.uk)

Eurlyaid – The European Association on Early Childhood Intervention (EAECI) is a participative association of persons, interested in issues of early childhood intervention as well as a working party made up of representatives of parents’ associations, professionals and researchers, from various countries of the European Union.

Eurlyaid – EAECI aims are:

- (1) Increasing the quality of life for parents and children with special needs, through early childhood intervention (within the context of inclusion and gender mainstreaming),
- (2) Stimulating the growth and development of early childhood intervention on a European level,
- (3) Increasing sensitivity to the values and ethics of early childhood intervention, as described in the Manifesto and
- (4) Increasing knowledge and expertise in the field of early childhood intervention.

The champion centre



The Champion Centre
TAMARIKI TOIORA

The Champion Centre provides multi-disciplinary early intervention services to infants and young children with significant disabilities and their families in Canterbury. The programme is offered in a centre-based model of service, in partnership with parents, and in accordance with international best practice.