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Guidelines
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***Outcomes in the Intensive Care Nursery
VLBW and ELBW Cohorts***

1. Overall, 7% of surviving infants < 1500 grams have Cerebral Palsy (CP). Children < 1000 grams are at higher risk. There is increased recognition that cognitive and communicative disabilities are high.
2. Children with diplegic and hemiplegic CP have an excellent motor prognosis.
3. Substantial intellectual disability (IQ < 50-55) occurs in less than 5% of very low birth weight (VLBW; <1500g) and is most often associated with quadriplegic cerebral palsy.
4. Severe sensory impairment is rare but needs systematic surveillance for threshold ROP and early detection of sensorineural hearing loss. Almost 1 in 12 children under 27 weeks gestation have an autistic spectrum disorder. Most do not have severe classical Kanner autism.
5. Learning disabilities, slow learning, Attention Deficit Disorder, mild intellectual disability, and executive function disorder are common
6. Parenchymal brain injury (IVH4, CPVL, ventriculomegaly) is an important marker for CP and severe multiple disabilities.
7. Poor growth and chronic lung disease increases risks for developmental, language, attention, and educational disorders.
8. Socioeconomic status, male gender, and not receiving quality early childhood developmental experiences are the key risk factors for mild intellectual disability and educational underachievement.
9. The biological, social, and developmental risks of extremely low birth weight survivors are increasing.
10. Key network strategies include developmental medicine leadership, implementation of pediatric medical homes, comprehensive preschool services, proactive management of literacy, numeracy, and social skills, and child advocacy.
11. Long term strategies to enhance communicative skills, literacy, academic competencies, executive function and social successes are required for all preterm children, especially children experiencing developmental delays, prenatal exposures, health setbacks in the first year of life, and living in adversity.
12. Major predictors of school success are quality early child experiences, maternal literacy, supports, and close attention to preschool social-emotional and learning experience.
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 - **Msall ME, Tremont MR. Measuring functional outcomes after prematurity. Ment Retard Dev Disabil Res Rev. 2002; 8:258-72.**
 - **Blair E, Watson L. Epidemiology of cerebral palsy. Semin Fetal Neonatal Med. 2006 ;11:117-25**