

BabyGym develops strong and skilled hands

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This little 18 month boy was in our Cotlands Birth to 2 Early Learning Group in Pefferville, Eastern Cape. He attended the stimulation class. During my site visit in June 2014 I notice that his left hand did not have a strong grasp with restrictive use. I recommended to the Early Learning Play Facilitator that he be included in the Baby Massage class and follow the BabyGym programme and to encourage the mother to daily massage his hands and use various sensory/tactile objects to stimulate hands. All our staff members have been trained as **Friends of BabyGym** and understand the difference between growth and development, and the importance of strong and coordinated movement.

After a few weeks with little improvement he was referred to the clinic where he was assessed and diagnosed with Juvenile arthritis and now receives a disability grant. The mother is so grateful for the assistance and early intervention that led to his diagnoses.

I can only attribute this to my training as a BabyGym Instructor. I am far more observant and aware of a child's development and that BabyGym Firm Foundations classes will assist with any developmental delays and challenges. When no obvious improvement was evident we realised that medical intervention was necessary.

The case has really helped in creating awareness in this community of the importance of stimulating their babies from birth so they can develop, become alert, strong and independent babies that will thrive as they reach their milestones. BabyGym class enrolment has increased substantially!

