

Potential Signs of Developmental Delays

There are several general "warning signs" of possible delay. These include:

Behavioral Warning Signs

- *Does not pay attention or stay focused on an activity for as long a time as other children of the same age*
- *Focuses on unusual objects for long periods of time; enjoys this more than interacting with others*
- *Avoids or rarely makes eye contact with others*
- *Gets unusually frustrated when trying to do simple tasks that most children of the same age can do*
- *Shows aggressive behaviors and acting out and appears to be very stubborn compared with other children*
- *Displays violent behaviors on a daily basis*
- *Stares into space, rocks body, or talks to self more often than other children of the same age*
- *Does not seek love and approval from a caregiver or parent*

Gross Motor Warning Signs

- *Has stiff arms and/or legs*
- *Has a floppy or limp body posture compared to other children of the same age*
- *Uses one side of body more than the other*
- *Has a very clumsy manner compared with other children of the same age*

Vision Warning Signs

- *Seems to have difficulty following objects or people with her eyes*
- *Rubs eyes frequently*
- *Turns, tilts or holds head in a strained or unusual position when trying to look at an object*
- *Seems to have difficulty finding or picking up small objects dropped on the floor (after the age of 12 months)*
- *Has difficulty focusing or making eye contact*
- *Closes one eye when trying to look at distant objects*
- *Eyes appear to be crossed or turned*
- *Brings objects too close to eyes to see*
- *One or both eyes appear abnormal in size or coloring*

Hearing Warning Signs

- *Talks in a very loud or very soft voice*
- *Seems to have difficulty responding when called from across the room, even when it is for something interesting*
- *Turns body so that the same ear is always turned toward sound*
- Has difficulty understanding what has been said or following directions after once she has turned 3 years of age
- Doesn't startle to loud noises
- Ears appear small or deformed
- Fails to develop sounds or words that would be appropriate at her age