

Global Developmental Delay, Family Education

Today, your child was diagnosed with Global Developmental Delay, but what IS that? Global Developmental Delay refers to children who are behind in at least 2 areas of their milestones compared to children who are the same age. Development is broken into 5 primary areas. Sometimes your medical provider or team may call these “streams” of development, “developmental domains,” or “developmental milestones.” The 5 areas are:

- Gross Motor skills
- Fine Motor skills
- Communication skills, which includes both receptive (understanding) and expressive (using of language)
- Social-Emotional skills (sometimes called Personal-Social skills)
- Problem Solving skills

Developmental delays of all kinds are very common. Global Developmental Delay impacts at least 1-3% of children.

Many families want to know, what do we do next?

For Global Developmental Delay, treatment should begin with intervention focused on the areas of your child’s delays. For children **under 3 years**, the Infant Toddler Program of North Carolina is the next step for starting this treatment. You can call them today to set up a first time appointment. For children **over 3 years**, the local public school is the next step and services are delivered through the special education program. Families should contact their local school district to request an evaluation. This request should be in writing. Children may also be referred for other supports and/or private therapies based on their overall needs by the medical team.

Your provider today may also have discussed some medical steps to find the reason “why” your child has Global Developmental Delay. These may be plans that are made specific to your child, but for many young children this includes genetic testing, hearing and vision assessment, and a request that you bring in other paperwork. If a cause of your child’s Global Developmental delay is found, your team can talk more about expectations for your child’s progress and specific needs based upon that diagnosis or discovery.

For more information:

CDC’s Developmental Milestones: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>

Download the FREE tracker app (English or Spanish): <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones-app.html>

Zero to Three (serving children ages 0-5 years): Parent resources,

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/194-development-from-24-to-36-months-old-new-skills-develop-through-play-routines-and-relationships>



DEVELOPMENTAL & BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS

3325 Silas Creek Parkway

Winston-Salem, NC 27103

P 336.713.7429

F 336.713.7842

<https://www.wakehealth.edu/Specialty/p/Pediatric-Development-and-Behavior>