

What are the warning signs of a developmental delay?

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