

Developmental Delay in Children and What You Should Know

The American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Children with Disabilities has estimated that as many as 400,000 children born each year are at risk for some form of early motor delay. Of these, approximately one of every forty children will have some true motor impairment. Difficulty in learning how to move, and obtain motor milestones can significantly impact other aspects of physical, emotional and cognitive development. On a more complex level early movement is key in creating or reinforcing the neural connections within the brain that are critical for learning as children grow.

While most severe motor delays are noticeable soon after birth, milder ones may not become apparent until around 2 months of age. Early detection that your child is having some difficulty is very important. Early intervention may help avoid further delay in motor skills and help promote normal development.

Pediatric physical therapists are trained to assess a child's developmental level, movement fluidity and variety, strength, posture and overall fitness. They can help improve your child's movement and promote age appropriate motor skills. If you are concerned about your child, speak with your pediatrician. Together you can decide if a referral to physical therapy is appropriate.

If you have additional questions, or feel your child would benefit from physical therapy, please call me or visit my webpage for resources. My name is Deirdre McDowell, and I specialize in helping babies and young children move well.



DEIRDRE MCDOWELL, PLLC

Pediatric Physical Therapy that helps children *move* well

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