



## Developmental Delay

### What is a Developmental Delay (DD)?

“Developmental delay” means such a deviation from average development in one or more of the following developmental areas that special education and related services are required:

- (A) physical;
  - (B) cognitive;
  - (C) adaptive behavior;
  - (D) communication; or,
  - (E) social or emotional development.
- The deviation from average development shall be documented and measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures (K.A.R. 91-40-1(q)).

### Eligibility Considerations

Developmental Delay only applies to children age 9 and younger. Eligibility is based on the use of an approved curriculum-based assessment, record review, observation, and parent interview. These assessments are designed to assess functional skills in everyday settings and provide more functional information than standardized tools. Curriculum based assessments can also be used for program planning and ongoing assessment. Children 3-5 years of age, who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten, have a development delay if they demonstrate significant deviation from average development in one or more developmental areas; perform significantly below normative sample on a standardized assessment in one or more developmental areas; or perform significantly

lower than peers on one or more curriculum-based assessment, criterion referenced assessment, and/or performance assessment.

### Educational Considerations

A developmental delay is more than being slow to develop or being a little behind. A child who has a developmental delay is continually behind in skills compared to same age peers. Delays may be early signs of learning and attention issues. The cause of the delay is not always clear. However, early intervention can often help these children catch up. If after intervention, the child is not catching up, further evaluation may be necessary.

Five areas in which there may be a delay in skill development include: cognitive (thinking) skills; social and emotional skills (controlling emotions and getting along with others); speech and language skills; fine and gross motor skills; and activities of daily living.

Although there is no one specific cause of developmental delay, risk factors can include complications at birth, environmental issues, and other medical conditions.

A categorical label of Developmental Delay only includes children age 9 and younger. These children’s performance is significantly below developmental expectations in one or more developmental areas.



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### Resources

Kansas Special Education Process Handbook <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=598>

KSDE Eligibility Indicators <https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/SES/misc/iep/EligibilityIndicators.pdf>

KSDE SETS <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=506>

Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) <https://ksdetasn.org/>

Understood for learning & attention issues <https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/treatments-approaches/early-intervention/what-you-need-to-know-about-developmental-delays>

For more information, contact:

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