What is Developmental Delay?

Children develop important skills such as sitting, walking, talking, understanding and using their hands, as they grow up. Some children are slower than expected to start doing these things and this is described as a developmental delay. Global developmental delay is when a child is slower starting to do things in all areas of their development.

Children with global developmental delay may make progress with time, but later than would be expected for their age and they often need more practice to achieve skills. Children may not catch up, although they might continue to make progress the gap between themselves and other children of the same age could widen over time. By the age of 5 years, it is considered not to be developmental delay but more likely to represent a learning difficulty or disability.

Support organisations

- Eddies – local support for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities, and their families and carers in Cambridgeshire. www.eddies.org.uk 01223 883130 • info@eddies.org.uk
- Mencap-Information and advice for parents, carer and family members of someone with a learning disability www.mencap.org.uk • helpline@mencap.org.uk 0808 808 1111 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)
- SWAN UK ( Syndromes Without A Name) is an initiative run by the charity Genetic Alliance UK offering support and information to families of children with undiagnosed genetic conditions. www.undiagnosed.org.uk 020 7831 0883 • info@undiagnosed.org.uk

Resources

Using signs to aid communication www.makaton.org www.singinghands.org.uk

Additional information available from Early Support coordinators

- Early Support information resources
- Positions for Play leaflet

You may also be interested in:

Search Facebook for:
- Mencap
- SWAN children UK

Search Google/Bing for role models:
- Gary Bourlet-co-founder Learning Disability England
- Lizzie Emeh-solo musician
- Nathan Bessell-actor
- Bethany Firth-multiple Gold medal winner at Paralympic Games 2016