



Suspected Developmental Delays

INTERVENING TO PROMOTE BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

By La Rabida Children's Hospital – The Chronic Illness Experts | www.larabida.org

Early Intervention Makes a Difference

A developmental delay is diagnosed when a child's development occurs more slowly than what experts deem typical. An estimated 8 % of all children from birth through the age of 6 years have delays in one or more of the following areas:

- Speech and/or language processing*
- Movement or motor control*
- Cognition or thought processing*
- Social-emotional*
- Activities of daily living
- Play
- Vision
- Sensory

*denotes most common areas of delayed development

Comparing a child's development against generally accepted guidelines is a step in determining whether developmental delays are present. A physician expects to see most children reach the following milestones:

- Sitting up or rolling by 6 months
- Holding a bottle by 9 months
- Using simple words like "mama" and "dada" by 12 months
- Finger feeding self by 12 months
- Standing or trying to walk by 12 months
- Following simple instructions like "sit down" by 18 months

Waiting to see if a child "catches up" is not recommended. Early and effective interventions can make a significant difference in a child's brain development and overall wellbeing.

IF DELAYS ARE SUSPECTED, SEEK AN EVALUATION

Beyond the support of the child's physician, the State of Illinois provides an array of resources for young children with developmental delays. Free developmental evaluations for children under 3 years of age are available through the Department of Human Services' Bureau of Early Intervention. If intervention is recommended, children will be referred to an appropriate provider for services.

To learn more about Illinois' early intervention program and where to find the nearest office, visit www.childandfamilyconnections.org or call 1.800.843.6154; TTY 1.800.447.6404.

MANAGING YOUR CHILD'S CARE

Experts recommend parents raising concerns with their child's physicians if they suspect developmental delays. Parents are the first line of defense for children and are encouraged to work closely with the child's physician and early intervention professionals to address delays – sooner rather than later.

TEAM WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL EXPERT

When it comes to tackling a child's developmental delay, there is no substitute for a team of pediatric professionals who are developmental experts.

Understanding the body, mind and spirit of the child is essential to successful therapeutic interventions.

Developmental Expertise at La Rabida

Every year, La Rabida Children's Hospital makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of children who face developmental delays.

Supported by doctors, nurses, case managers, dietitians and social workers, the developmental and rehabilitation team at La Rabida takes team approach to assessment of and interventions for children with developmental delays. Working closely with the family, the team designs a service plan that builds on the child's strengths and incorporates strategies for addressing deficits.

Services within and across one or more of disciplines may be required, including:

- Speech-language pathology
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Infant development

Under one roof, La Rabida provides developmental and rehabilitative services plus inpatient and outpatient medical care for children with special health care needs.

Public and most private insurance is accepted. A physician referral may be required. To make an appointment, call 773.256.5777.



La Rabida Children's Hospital



A specialty hospital for children with chronic illness and developmental disabilities.

About La Rabida

La Rabida is a resource upon which Chicago's families have depended since 1896. Our mission to provide care to children with lifelong medical conditions regardless of their family's ability to pay has been unwavering.

Today, La Rabida serves approximately 9,000 children annually who require primary and specialty care to address complex and challenging medical conditions. Services and programs include treatment for chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes, and sickle cell disease, and developmental disabilities. In addition, La Rabida specializes in the treatment of children who have been abused, neglected or experienced trauma.

Under one roof, La Rabida offers access to board-certified pediatricians and specialty physicians, behavioral science professionals, advanced practice nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech pathologists, dieticians, case managers and social workers. All have dedicated their careers to pediatric health care and are committed to our philosophy of care.

La Rabida is a recognized leader in its treatment of chronic disease, disabilities, abuse and trauma and works closely with leading institutions who refer patients for specialty care. It attracts high caliber health care professionals for the many career and training opportunities it offers. It is affiliated with Children's Memorial Hospital and the University of Chicago.

We are blessed with a magnificent Lakeside location just minutes from the heart of downtown Chicago. Our facility is designed to show off its spectacular views and inspire hope for every child and family who crosses our threshold.

Visit www.larabida.org. You will come to understand why La Rabida is so special.

COORDINATES AND CONTACTS

La Rabida Children's Hospital is located on Lake Michigan, directly east of Jackson Harbor, a mile south of the Museum of Science and Industry. To Mapquest directions, input 6501 S. Promontory Point Drive, Chicago, IL 60649 as the address. Take a virtual tour. Visit www.larabida.org to cruise our website and learn more about our services and pediatric healthcare professionals. For general inquiries, call: 773.363.6700. To make an appointment for Developmental and Rehabilitative Services, call 773.256.5777.

LA RABIDA'S SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

Developmental delays are not uncommon among low birth weight or premature babies, infants who have been exposed to toxic substances in utero, children who have experienced disruptions in their attachments to caregivers and those dependent on medical technologies. Delays may be an early warning sign of cerebral palsy, an autistic spectrum disorder, or other conditions.

Standardized testing and developmental inventories are used by La Rabida's experts to evaluate the child in the following areas:

- Gross and fine motor development
- Receptive and expressive language
- Sensory regulation
- Cognition,
- Oral-motor development
- Visual-motor development
- Social/emotional development

Results of the assessments help in the building of a customized service plan. An interdisciplinary team of therapists, experts, supported by pediatric physicians, nurses, dieticians, social workers and case managers, executes the plan, monitoring progress against established goals and working closely with the child's family.

The overarching goal is to help each child reach his or her fullest potential in key developmental areas.

CHECK-OUT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LA RABIDA'S ASTHMA EXPERTISE. | WWW.LARABIDA.ORG