

Global Developmental Delay

What is global developmental delay?

Global developmental delay is a Definition: GDD is defined as a significant lag in at least two developmental domains.

Global developmental delay label is used when a child takes longer to reach certain development stages than other children their age.

Global Developmental Delay (GDD) is a mainly diagnosed for children under the age of 5 which have shown signs of major delays in two or more developmental stages.

Tomorrow



How do we assess for GDD?

The majority of children have to undergo assessment which are done from observing a child play and to gather the relevant information about the individual child's development from also parents or carers.

The doctor will ask you some questions about pregnancy, delivery, early childhood, family history.

Then medical results from doctors and other organisations will also examine the child as part of this assessment.

Barriers

Barriers of global developmental delay (GDD) such as

1. delayed signs in response of knowledge
2. limited access to specialized services,
3. high financial costs, and parental factors like denial
4. lack of resources.
5. Other organisations, such as scarce trained professionals
6. long waiting times delay vital assessments and results

Strategies

1. Early Intervention- individual development plan is set up for the child personal targets
2. Learning & Visuals, such as objects, flash cards, or adaptations implemented
3. Alternative Communication which maybe sign language, facial expression, sensory touch, hand signals or object implements
4. Positive Behaviour Support such as staff projection of positive expression and hand gestures to respond.

Hi my name is Sam Morris and my topic to discuss is Introduce, Global Developmental Delay also known as (GDD)

This can be defined as significant delays within two or possibly more developmental areas such as fine motor and gross motor skills, speech, cognitive, social interaction for children under the age five.

Children under the age of 5 can possibly be diagnosed with Global developmental delay. However, if a child over 5 remains to have such delays within their development stages then they may be resulting with a diagnosis of intellectual disability.

The delay in their development will be short term and can be overcome with additional support or therapy.

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However, some delays within a child's development may be short term and this could possibly, with additional support, adaptations implemented, the child could gradually develop to possibly exceed to correct development stages for their right age group or even further.

Mencap mentions this with their own publications.

Another side of this delay may also highlight that the child maybe needs are further ongoing and resulting in extra support and possibly indicating that the child may also have a learning disability.

Mencap (2028) Global developmental delay. Available at:

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/learning-disability-explained/learning-disability-and-conditions/global-developmental-delay> (Accessed: 4 May 2026).

What are these factors? and what are the possible risks?

My research and finding lead me to discover these causes and risk factors of GDD. The first finding was there was just one single factor and possible more which maybe implicated from

1. Genetic Conditions such as Down syndrome.

2. Pregnancy/ Complications at birth which maybe Prematurity or infections during pregnancy.

3. Trauma maybe another example from Brain Injury/Trauma.

Infections also could possibly be an impacting factor for example meningitis or other trauma.

4. The Unknown and Unexplained Causes: In some cases, To identify one individual cause that is impossible be identified.

Alder Hey Children's Hospital Trust

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(assessed April 4, 2026).

How do we assess for GDD?

How do we reach a diagnosis and to even be given support?

Researching led my understanding with firstly an assessment is provided via a doctors whom assess children with observations, and a developmental stages list which indicates various stages for age and abilities, and by undergoing a discussion with parents about their child's and history.

This evidence will be gathered to produce a possible outcome based for the individual Child's needs. This information if relevant will be passed onto the correct departments specific to the child.

Support & Therapy maybe introduced and possible upmost Early intervention is vital this may result in a form which includes physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy to help children reach their potential.

Support Organisations Organizations such as Mencap, Contact, and Understood offer resources for families, early years help, speech and language also known as (SALT), amongst others.

Mencap

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(Assessed April 4th, 2026).

This is crucial that in doing so yourself have developed and could possibly need yourself to adjust and understand the concept of actually knowing of how you would usually approach this situation and not make it to overwhelming to the child.

This is vital that in doing so yourself have developed and to understand how the child can

communicates and what their physical, emotional and social skill level is.

There is a wide range of 'normal' within children's development and it is essential that you understand how this child is individually impacted by their global developmental delay.

To reach an overall conclusion on all the research gathered, within Early years child development is central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the support of improvements within a child's health, to provide education, and early nutrition directly impacting future productivity and encouraging equality and inclusion to all.

Without adaptations to include and early years diagnoses of children with GDD, then this may go undetected leaving the child develop disadvantages with their future and may affect their mental health and well being into adulthood.

A child's first 5 years of their development are essential, and still over 200 million children in low and middle income countries (LMICs) are disadvantaged and may not have the opportunity to their developmental potential, due to poverty and malnutrition.

(assessed 9th may, 2026, 21:00pm),BMJ Global Health +4. (assessed 9th may, 2026, Unicef UK +7).

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Barriers that we may encounter could be an even greater challenge than expected which may include "Every child walks their own path, but what happens when the path seems to be taking much longer than expected?" "It is estimated that 250 million children globally are not reaching expected developmental milestones." "When we talk about Global Developmental Delay, we aren't just talking about milestones; we are talking about a child's way of experiencing the world." (researched 6th may, 2026, 16:56pm), (YouTube·Alder Hey +2)
Via this YOU tube link, and video it described challenges and barriers on the time aspect on every Childs expectancy to reach milestones and stages of such development and it mentioned resources which aren't available to all communities.

Strategies and adaptations may need firstly to make those implements such as adjustments with any child however a child with global development delay could possibly need yourself to adjust and understand the concept of actually knowing of how you would usually undertake could possibly need yourself to adjust and understand the concept of actually knowing of how you would usually undertake work directly maybe via general observations within the actually spent with their family.
This is vital that in doing so yourself have developed and to understand how the child can communicates and what their physical, emotional and social skill level is.
There is a wide range of 'normal' within children's development and it is essential that you understand how this child is individually impacted by their needs.

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