

Approach to Developmental Delay (usually for kids <5 yrs old)

“Developmental delay”
is a symptom, not a
specific diagnosis!

Developmental Milestones Missing!
(Child is not at the expected developmental milestones at the expected age)

Were developmental milestones previously achieved, but now lost?

YES!

R/O bad disease
(neurodegenerative, metabolic, neoplastic)

No!

Ensure vision and hearing is normal

Global Developmental Delay
(affecting all developmental domains)

Isolated delay in one domain

Combinations of delayed domains
(diagnostic groupings)

Speech and language delays

Cognition delays (usually seen in kids >5)

Motor delays

motor delays + cognitive delays

Language delays + social impairments

→ Genetic dx
→ Syndromic dx
→ Teratogenic dx

→ Cognitive impairment
(aka intellectual disability (ID), aka mental retardation – but do not use these last 2 terms)

→ Developmental language disorders

→ Learning Disabilities
- say: “learning differences”

→ Cerebral Palsy
→ 1^o muscle disorders

→ Autism spectrum disorders

→ Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) can cause global or isolated developmental delay