

# **PARENTS**

**Your Child Looks Perfect**

**but . . .**

**You Suspect Something is  
Wrong?**

**Why?**

**Does Your Child Have  
An Uneven Pattern  
of  
Can Do's  
and  
Can't Do's**

You may worry that your child is not developing like other pre-schoolers in some ways. Development may be

- Confusing
- Unpredictable
- Erratic
- Inconsistent

**Consider Your Child's Preschool Skills**

**Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey**

614 Cranbury Rd., Unit 6268, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Phone (732) 645-2738

ldanj.org | info@ldanj.org

Below are frequent comments describing common characteristics of preschoolers who might be at risk for being identified as having a learning disability.

"**He** knocks over blocks, bumps into doors, falls out of his chair, crashes into playmates and catapults himself through space."

- poor estimation of space
- poor coordination
- tendency to lurch forward
- double jointed sitting

"**Her** big eyes look up at me and she listens, but I don't seem to get through."

- problem understanding what is said
- difficulty remembering what she hears
- problem remembering sequences of sounds
- oversensitivity to noise
- doesn't enjoy being read to
- difficulty following simple directions

"**He** understands what I say to him but doesn't express himself well."

- delayed speech and language
- sounds and words out of sequence (aminals, pasghetti)
- poor vocabulary

"**He** overreacts or underreacts to everything - it's as though his emotional thermostat isn't working."

- indiscriminate or overreactions
- loss of emotional control
- laughter one moment, crying the next
- under or overreaction to touch

"**She** can talk about topiary trees, but she can't pull up a zipper or draw a circle."

- difficulty using hands to manipulate toys, buttons, etc.
- difficulty, or avoidance of, playing with puzzles and blocks
- clumsiness, knocking over glasses of milk, juice

"**His** vision is good, yet he doesn't seem to perceive things well."

- difficulty focusing
- problems distinguishing shapes and colors
- difficulty remembering what he sees
- difficulty remembering the order/sequence of what he sees
- difficulty understanding what he sees

"**He** never seems to be 'put together' right, yet I spend so much more time and energy helping him than the other children."

- untied shoes, shirt hanging out
- disorganized movement
- difficulty keeping up with his things

Often it is the parents who first have concerns when their toddlers are not "on target" in their development. Sometimes areas of delayed development are first detected in the doctor's office. It often takes longer to notice uneven development patterns than to notice overall delayed development.

**Warning signs are just that . . .**  
**Warnings.** They don't necessarily mean there are problems, but they should be discussed with your pediatrician or family physician at your next visit. If your toddler is developing normally, your doctor will be able to reassure you.

Early intervention with a child who is behind in social, cognitive, fine motor, gross motor, and/or language development can make a world of difference. If you see some of these signs in your child, you may want to contact your school district, primary physician, or the local, state or national LDA office for information. They can guide you on where to start in determining whether your child has some delays in areas of development.

Federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provides for a free and appropriate education for all children with disabilities. This includes early intervention for preschool children who need special education services.

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**The Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA)** is a national non-profit volunteer organization whose members include individuals with learning disabilities, their families and professionals. There are state and local LDA chapters throughout the United States. For more information and to locate the LDA chapter nearest you, call or write:

LDA  
4156 Library Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15234-1349  
(412) 341-1515

**OTHER RESOURCES**

**Your Local School District:**

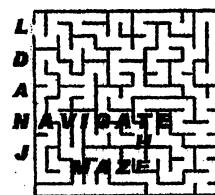
Ask about their early childhood screening program and their early childhood education program.

**Your State Department of Education:**

Ask about your state's plan for early childhood intervention and special education.

**Your State's Parent Training and Information Center:**

Ask about what steps you should take to request an evaluation for your toddler.



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