

# What are the developmental and functional outcomes at school age of children diagnosed with a global developmental delay?

childhood  
disability  
LINK



## Summary

*Global developmental delay:* A diagnosis for a child who is delayed in the achievement of a number of different developmental milestones.

The goal of this study was to find out how children who were diagnosed with a global developmental delay were doing at school age, in terms of their development and ability to carry out everyday activities. A group of children who were diagnosed with global developmental delay when they were around 3 1/2 years old were tested again at 7-8 years of age. Overall the children performed below average on almost all measures of developmental and function as assessed by two clinical tests. This study demonstrated that children with early global developmental delay have persistent developmental difficulties in the early school years across all developmental and functional domains.

## What families should know

Young children with global developmental delay are a group at high-risk for later developmental and functional impairments at early school age.

## What practitioners should know

Global developmental delay diagnosed early in childhood does not represent simply a maturational lag. A programmatic approach that involves intermittent follow-up of these children to assess key elements at different points in the lifespan may be of utility in this particular population.

## Reference

[Shevell, M., Majnemer, A., Platt, R., Webster, R., & Birnbaum, R. \(2005\). Developmental and functional outcomes at school age of preschool children with global developmental delay. \*Journal of Child Neurology\*, 20, 648-653.](#)