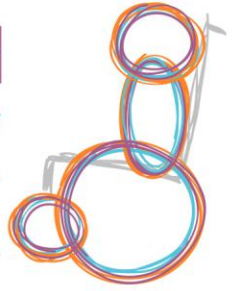


Are children with developmental language impairment at increased risk for motor delays?

childhood
disability
LINK



Summary

The main aim of this study was to determine if children with a language delay are likely to also have a motor delay when they are school age. A group of children who were first diagnosed with a specific language delay when they were preschool age were evaluated again at school age with respect to their global developmental performance. More than half the children had delays in either their gross motor or fine motor development. At this time, most still had impaired language skills. Interestingly, language scores correlated with motor scores, so that those with more severe language deficits also had more severe motor impairments. This study suggests that motor difficulties are common in children who initially present clinically with only a delay in language skill development.

What families and practitioners should know

- Preschoolers who present clinically with a specific language delay may also be at risk for motor delays, and should be followed and evaluated globally (all areas of development), particularly with respect to their motor development.
- Children with delays in language and motor skills may be at greater risk for academic difficulties; greater dependency in everyday activities, social problems and low self-esteem, and therefore these areas should be referred for appropriate resources, if these difficulties are apparent.

Reference

[Webster, R.I., Majnemer, A., Platt, R.W., & Shevell, M.I. \(2005\). Motor function at school-age in children with a preschool diagnosis of developmental language impairment, Journal of Pediatrics, 146, 80-85.](#)