

About 16% to 18% of children have disabilities.

Only 20% to 30% of these children are evaluated and treated prior to school entrance.

AGE 0-3

By 6 months or thereafter:

- No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions

By 9 months or thereafter:

- No back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles, or other facial expressions

By 12 months:

- No babbling &/or no gesturing

By 15 months:

- No words

By 24 months:

- No 2-word meaningful phrases (without imitating or repeating)

ANY LOSS of speech or babbling or social skills at ANY AGE

Courtesy "First Signs" www.firstsigns.org

AGES 3-5

- Trouble learning common nursery rhymes
- A lack of appreciation of rhymes
- Mispronounced words; persistent baby talk
- Difficulty in learning names of letters
- Failure to know the letters in his/her own name

AGES 5-7

- Trouble learning nursery rhymes
- Persistent baby talk
- Difficulty learning letters
- Fails to learn letters in own name
- Does not associated letters with sounds
- Unable to read common one-syllable words
- Runs away from reading time
- Complains about reading
- Social avoidance (clingy, temper tantrums, poor eye contact)
- Does not explore environment (only likes certain textures)
- Poor visual-spatial organization (avoids jungle gym)
- Poor fine-motor skills (hands)
- Poor social skills (needs rules)
- Little or no speech prosody
- Academic problems include: poor handwriting, reading comprehension, mechanical arithmetic, written spelling

OLDER CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

- Academic decline
- Conduct related concerns or behavioral issues
- Child complains of feeling "dumb"
- Others report that child is "lazy" and "just not trying"
- Failing exams even after studying
- Reduced self esteem
- Teachers report concerns
- Not handing in assignments
- Social concerns
- Emotional Difficulties (especially withdrawal, irritability, anger, anxiety, sadness)
- History of alcohol or drug use
- Oppositional behaviors towards homework



DEVELOPMENTAL RED FLAGS:

When To Ask For An Evaluation

ANY AGE

- Sleep Disturbance
- Fire Setting
- Cruelty to animals
- Aggressive Behavior
- Hyperactivity
- Inability to play with peers appropriately
- Excessive fears
- School Refusal