

YOUNG CHILD WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

YCDD is a DESE-designated IDEA educational eligibility for children aged 3-5, who are not yet kindergarten eligible, and who demonstrate delays in communication, cognitive, physical, social/emotional, and/or adaptive skills.

CHARACTERISTICS



- Not meeting developmental norms beyond the expected age
- Formal testing reveals a 1.5 standard deviation below age expectancy in two or more skill areas OR a 2.0 standard deviation below in one skill area

COMMUNICATION:

- not speaking/limited verbal expression
- unintelligible speech

PHYSICAL:

- difficulty with fine and gross motor skills
- physical disability, such as cerebral palsy

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL:

- difficulty with joint attention
- inability to attach in relationships
- demonstrates perseverative behaviors

COGNITIVE

- difficulty with following simple directions
- lacks curiosity or engagement
- difficulty learning new things

ADAPTIVE

- difficulty with feeding, dressing, and toileting



SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

- Only students aged 3-5 can have an initial YCDD identification. Students in kindergarten may still have a YCDD identification if they were not re-evaluated during kindergarten. By first grade, he/she will need to meet eligibility for a different IDEA category in order to continue to receive public school services.
- Children younger than three can be referred for a public school evaluation up to 90 days before their third birthday. They may qualify for YCDD, but services would not begin until the child's third birthday.
- Even if a public school district does not have an early childhood program, they are required to identify and serve YCDD-eligible students.

POSSIBLE SUPPORTS



- Extended time for tasks related to the area(s) of eligibility
- Use multi-modalities to teach new concepts

COMMUNICATION:

- speech/language therapy
- give extended wait time
- read stories, sing songs, narrate your activities
- teach and reteach basic concept vocabulary

PHYSICAL:

- physical therapy and/or occupational therapy
- accessible classroom, school building, playground
- peer buddy
- encourage self-mastery to the extend possible

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL:

- play-based counseling/therapy
- calming corner
- teach social skills

COGNITIVE:

- play-based cognitive specialized instruction
- teach and reteach basic concept vocabulary
- cause-effect activities
- give simple directions
- provide visuals

ADAPTIVE:

- occupational therapy
- explicit and repeated teaching of skills
- assistance with eating, toileting, coat on/off, etc



MORE RESOURCES

[Google Sheet](#) with tabs for articles, podcasts, and videos
<https://bit.ly/4lXxD3v>

