

# Global Developmental Delay



## What is Global Developmental Delay and where to find help and support?

If you have heard the term 'global development delay', this means a child is taking a bit longer to do the things that other children their age are doing.

As children gain new skills we see them change and grow. As they learn to hold their heads up, crawl, stand, babble and then use words, for example. These are called "Development Milestones" and are what are used to measure how your child is developing. Not all children hit the milestones at the same time and your child might take a bit longer. Some children take a lot longer. It could be that your baby may: have trouble feeding, for example sucking and digesting; be slower to sit or stand. Your pre-school child may be slow to talk or have difficulty pronouncing words and short sentences, or learning new words. Your child may be in school and find reading and writing difficult or have problems understanding information and instructions. Even if your child struggles with one of these, this can have a knock-on effect in other ways of developing too. So, for example, if your child is struggling to tell you what they want or you are the only one who can understand what they are saying and this isn't helped, they may find it more difficult to learn and to play with others when they go to school.

If your child is falling behind with their milestones, try not to feel guilty or take it personally, as it's often not something you've done or not done - it's just how your child is developing. Do talk to someone so your child can get the help they need as soon as possible, as it can make all the difference as they grow up and there is help available.

## Who can help?

- Start with your GP or health visitor and tell them what's bothering you about the milestones.
- Your children's centre or nursery/school will also know about what help can be provided
- The best thing you can do is to talk to the professionals and work together to help your child learn and develop.

## Where to find out more on website:

[www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk](http://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk) and look under Useful Information