

Recognizing Early Motor Delays: The Next Steps

Parents often look to health professionals for guidance to ensure their child reaches his or her fullest potential. To show support a health professional might:

- Encourage parents to share concerns
- Schedule a follow-up for a suspected delay
- Have a caregiver keep a notebook of concerns and observations between baby visits
- Refer a child for an evaluation or early screening

Descriptions of Pediatric Therapy Disciplines



Pediatric Occupational Therapists

- Help children participate in various environments and daily life activities
- Improve play skills, self care, fine motor skills, and sensory processing
- Work toward improving a child's ability to be an active participant in life's meaningful activities



Pediatric Physical Therapists

- Work to improve a child's strength, flexibility, range of motion, posture, balance, and movement patterns
- Assess a variety of aspects that affect and determine a child's ability to be independent
- Help children to safely participate in activities within the home, school, and community



Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologists

- Evaluate and provide intervention to give children the tools to communicate effectively
- Aim to improve a child's ability to use verbal and non-verbal language and to tolerate sensory stimulation
- Address feeding and swallowing in infants and children

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