



Governor's Council on
Developmental Disabilities
ARKANSAS

Inclusion. Integration. Independence.

What are developmental disabilities?

The term developmental disability means a severe, chronic disability that begins at birth, during childhood, or young adulthood and is likely to continue throughout one's life.

Some examples are autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, or spina bifida.

How common are developmental disabilities?

Over 5 million Americans are estimated to have a developmental disability. That is 17%. One in six children aged 3-17 have one or more disability.

What do I do if I think my child has a delay in development?

Families who have children who have intellectual or developmental disabilities or delays have several options, regardless of income, to help their children learn. All children develop differently, and each child should have a treatment plan tailored to his or her needs.

If you apply and are approved for Medicaid, your child may be eligible to get services to help with a developmental delay or disability.

For special services such as therapies, a physician's prescription and therapist's evaluation will be required to decide which services are appropriate.

The **DDS Intake and Referral unit is the best place to start** if you, a loved one, or a person in your care needs services and support.

You can contact DDS Intake and Referral by calling 501-683-5687 or submitting an online request for services.

