

What are the causes of development delay?

Growth and development of a child in tune with developmental milestones of different age groups suggest normal progression of a child. Under certain conditions, the physical size of the body (growth indicator) and skill and functions (development indicator) gets affected and as a result child fails to progress normally. This affects physical, Intellectual, Social and Emotional well-being.

There are certain causes of delayed growth and development, namely:

- **Genetic Inheritance:** Genetic factors effects height, weight, mental, social development and personality.
- **Pre & Post Birth Nutrition:** Nutritional deficiency in pregnant mother and child after birth may result in mental retardation.
- **Infections & Infestations:** Infections with torch during intrauterine life retards growth of fetus. Further, recurrent infections like diarrhea and measles especially in a malnourished child adversely affects the growth.
- **Physical surrounding:** Air and light ventilation and hygiene also effects growth and development.
- **Psychological Factors:** Love, care and proper child parent relationship also exert their impact.
- **Economic Factor:** Very poor economic status also leads to nutritional deficiency and lesser access to medical facilities as well.

Other Factors: Birth order, birth spacing and education of parents also plays significant role in the growth and development of a child.