

NC Family to Family Health Information Center

"A beacon for families of children with special health care needs."

NC Family to Family Health Information Center
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Fact Sheet

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Developmental Disability

Developmental disability is a term used to describe a life-long condition that will affect mental and/or physical abilities. A development disability is one that occurs before the age of twenty-two (or while still considered a child). People with developmental disabilities have problems with major life activities such as language, mobility, learning, self-help, and independent living. These daily tasks come from categories determined by the state. A person with a developmental disability has difficulty with three or more of these categories:

- Capacity for independent living
- Learning
- Mobility
- Understanding and uses of language
- Self-care
- Self-direction

Some developmental disabilities include Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy, Autism Spectrum Disorder, various Genetic and Chromosomal Disorders such as Down syndrome and Fragile X syndrome, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

It is important to make sure that each child has the support they need to reach their full potential. To find out what services or supports may be available for your child, contact your Local Management Entity (LME): <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas/lmedirectory.htm#lmeList>

For more Information:

- Request a copy of the **Navigating and Negotiating Developmental Disabilities Services** packet from the NC Family to Family Health Information Center at (800) 962-6817 ext. 35
- Visit the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance

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