

Dr. Jane Aronson  
Voluntary Pediatric Faculty, Cornell Weill Medicine  
Director, International Pediatric Health Services, PLLC  
Director, Global Behavioral Health Network for Children and Young People  
Founder, CEO Worldwide Orphans Foundation 1997-2019

January 21, 2021

Developmental Delays in Adopted children  
A primer for child development and how to discover and address delays

Older versus younger children

Causes

Underlying medical conditions  
Genetic syndromes  
Environmental conditions/social determinants i.e. poverty  
Failure to thrive (malnutrition)  
Exposure to alcohol and drugs during pregnancy

Institutionalization  
Trauma and toxic stress  
Disaster, war, conflict, natural disaster, displacement/refugees, homelessness

Milestones

Domains

Receptive and Expressive Language

Personal Social Adaptive

Gross Motor

Fine Motor

Cognitive/intellectual

Problem Solving

Early Intervention

New York 347-396-6828

[EIConsumerAffairs@health.nyc.gov](mailto:EIConsumerAffairs@health.nyc.gov)

New Jersey

**888-653-4463**

<https://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/eis/for-families/when/>

Birth to 36 months

Through the county office; anyone can make a referral including a parent  
Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language therapy

At home services or services in local settings i.e. pre-school

Special education (services in the classroom)  
3 yo and older through your local school district  
New York

Department of Education  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/>

New Jersey  
Department of Education  
<https://www.nj.gov/education/>  
<https://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/>

504 accommodations  
IEP (Individualized Educational Program)

Emotional issues/Identity  
Behavioral issues  
Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD)  
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Educational issues  
Learning Disabilities  
Sensory Processing Disorder  
Auditory Processing Disorder  
Attention Deficit Disorder with and without Hyperactivity  
(ADHD)  
Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)  
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

Identification of developmental delays over time  
Kids who were adopted need frequent evaluations in the pediatrician's office

References

**Prenatal Substance Abuse: Short- and Long-term Effects on the Exposed Fetus**

Marylou Behnke, Vincent C. Smith, COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE

ABUSE and COMMITTEE ON FETUS AND NEWBORN

Pediatrics March 2013, 131 (3) e1009-e1024; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2012-3931>

### **Understanding Gaps in Developmental Screening and Referral**

Mei Elansary, Michael Silverstein  
Pediatrics, Apr 2020, 145 (4) e20200164

### **Trends in Pediatricians' Developmental Screening: 2002–2016**

Paul H. Lipkin, Michelle M. Macias, Briella Baer Chen, Daniel Coury, Elizabeth A. Gottschlich, Susan L. Hyman, Blake Sisk, Audrey Wolfe, Susan E. Levy  
Pediatrics, Apr 2020, 145 (4) e20190851

### **Pediatrician Guidance in Supporting Families of Children Who Are Adopted, Fostered, or in Kinship Care**

Veronnie F. Jones, Elaine E. Schulte, Douglas Waite, COUNCIL ON FOSTER CARE, ADOPTION, AND KINSHIP CARE  
Pediatrics, Dec 2020, 146 (6) e2020034629