



# SPREAD THE WORD: DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) Office of Special Education has provided this guidance within a series of important topics of special education as a requirement by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs.

This resource provides a look into the eligibility category of developmental delay, discussing the specific criteria that is required for developmental delay eligibility.

511 IAC 7-41-6  
**Developmental delay** is a disability category solely for students who are:

At least three years old and less than nine years old.

**Eligibility shall be determined by 511 IAC 7-41-6 (b)**

A new eligibility **MUST** be determined and implemented **BEFORE** the student's ninth birthday.

511 IAC 7-41-6  
**Developmental delay** means a delay of either **two standard deviations below the mean** in one of the following developmental areas or **one and one-half standard deviations below the mean** in any two of the following developmental areas:

## Developmental Areas

Gross or Fine Motor Development

Cognitive Development

Receptive or Expressive Language Development

Social or Emotional

Adaptive/Self-Help

Assessment of developmental areas via norm referenced assessment

Social and developmental history

Developmentally relevant medical information

A vision and hearing screening

Systematic observation across various environments

**Other eligibility categories may be appropriate and should be considered**