

Eligibility of Child with Developmental Delay

POLICY:

Children with a delay in one or more areas of development are eligible for special education services.

- *This policy relates to Head Start Performance Standards 45 CFR Part Part 1304.21, 1308.17*

GUIDELINES:

1. The child is three through five years of age and meets the criteria as defined by the state.
2. The child has not acquired skills or achieved commensurate with recognized performance expectations for his/her age in one or more of the developmental areas and
3. The child demonstrates measureable, verifiable difference between expected performance and the current level of performance documented by: scores of 1.5 standard deviations or more below the mean in two or more developmental areas or scores of 2.0 standard deviations below the mean in one or more of the developmental areas listed below:
 - a. Cognition
 - b. Motor development
 - c. Communication
 - d. Social - emotional development
 - e. Self-help /Adaptive behavior
4. When making the determination that a very young child exhibits delays in social, emotional or behavior development, consideration must be given to the following factors:
 - a. Isolated traumatic events may lead to emotional/behavior changes in young children, while serious are often short in duration.

- b. Young children are often responsive to short term behavior intervention.
- c. Medical factors can have potential impact on child behavior.
- d. Differing culture norms can influence behavior.
- e. Inappropriate educational programs/practices can affect child behavior.

Approved by Policy Council July 2013