

Academic Half Day Cases – Developmental Medicine

Clinical Presentations: Development / Behaviour / Learning Problems

1. An 18 month-old girl comes for a well-child check. She was born at 37 weeks gestation and has been generally well. You review her development and learn that she was able to sit independently at 7 months and walked at 13 months of age. She is currently walking well. She says mama and dada but has no other words. She points to indicate her interests and enjoys toys that have lights and sounds.
2. A 30 month-old boy has delayed speech. He was referred for early intervention to a speech pathologist at 18 months of age but parents declined as there was a family history of “late bloomers”. At present, he uses single words to request desired food. He can speak in short sentences when prompted. He has minimal interest in “typical” toys, but rather tends to hold small objects in his hands and walk around. His parents wonder if he is deaf as he does not consistently respond to his name.
3. A 12 month old boy comes for a well-child check. He was born at 32 weeks gestation and required ventilation in the NICU for 1 week and was ready for discharge at 7 weeks. He has had two hospitalizations for respiratory illness. He does not yet have any specific words, but babbles and uses mama nonspecifically. He can bear weight in the standing position if placed beside a table, but does not pull to stand. He does not crawl, but when prone, he will pull himself along the floor with his arms. His parents indicate it is difficult to change his diaper and place him in a high chair as he “resists” being in these positions.
4. A two year old girl has been brought to her physician because of developmental concerns. Her parents report that she was “on track” with her baby book until about 18 months. At that time, they noticed that she stopped walking and reverted to crawling. She will cruise on furniture. She is using single words but has no 2 word combinations.
5. An infant is delivered following an uncomplicated term pregnancy. He is diagnosed clinically with Down Syndrome at birth and this is subsequently confirmed by karyotype to be trisomy 21. Parents ask what they should expect regarding his development. What do you tell them?
6. A 7 year old child has moved to Canada 6 months ago. He has a history of global developmental delay affecting all domains but has had not formal assessment or early intervention. He attended school for two years (preschool and kindergarten) in his home country. The family speaks some English but requires a translator for complex discussions. The boy speaks in short sentences of 3-4 words and family members find him hard to understand. He enjoys active play and attempts to join in with children at school, gravitating to younger peers. In the classroom (grade 1), he has poor attention. He can not print his name. He counts to 10 in his first language.