

MY CHILD SEEMS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER KIDS

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MY CHILD SEEMED THE SAME AS OTHERS UNTIL

Some children do well with development and then the process slows down and they seem out of step. Make a list of how your child is different from other children his / her age and take to a pediatrician. Trust your instinct, if they tell you not to worry, get a second opinion.

MY CHILD WAS ALWAYS QUIETER THAN OTHER CHILDREN

Initially, parents like the calm quiet baby who seems not to fuss. But if the baby also does not engage in its surroundings, the parents worry. Make a list of the things your baby does or does not do to your baby's pediatrician. The pediatrician will tell you what to do or what to watch for.

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN NEED MORE ASSISTANCE

Children who fail to learn certain functions automatically, regardless of the reason, need assistance to help them learn the basics. There are many excellent therapies that have been developed over the past twenty years to help your child along with development.

If your child is very young, you will be taught how to carry out these therapies. Yes it is time consuming, but it is fun to see your young one respond to these methods.

Speak to your baby's pediatrician, he/she can refer you to the local Regional Center Office, and to a Specialist for evaluations. If your baby is deemed developmentally delayed you may qualify for Services subsidized by the Regional Center, and later by the school district.

There is help out there, but remember that your baby is most bonded with you, and you are still the parents and will be teaching your child how to develop.

MY CHILD SEEMED FINE UNTIL HE GOT TO JUNIOR HIGH

Many perfectly normal kids have trouble with others in that age group. That is an especially mean spirited age group, given to cliques and exclusion.

You either belong and are in, or you are out and made to feel unworthy of the company of the others. That is also a very sensitive age, so the pain of exclusion is doubly strong.

Some get into cliques that they do not want to be in, simply because they are rejected by others. Others cannot get into any group and are tormented.

There is the stress of having multiple teachers and classrooms, so the safety net of sameness is gone.

This is the time that many kids start experimenting with drugs and alcohol. Even students, who were model students before, can take a turn for the worse. Read the section on Parents' Guide to Teenagers.

Some kids have trouble navigating the social world of multiple interactions, and will isolate and become very unhappy during that time. Watch your youngster with others his age and with adults. See and listen to how they react to interactions and what happens as they try to join in conversations. If they are different and have problems, try to speak with them about it and give them tips. If that does not work, get professional help. Have your child evaluated for mental health issues interference or need for Social Skills Group. Everyone needs someone they can view as a friend. Isolation is a terrible thing.