

Eligibility Categories for Special Education Under IDEA and Chapter 60

Developmental Delay (DD)

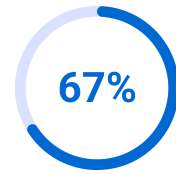
Ages 3 through 5 Years Old

Developmental Delay (DD) means a child is slow to meet or not reaching milestones in one or more areas of development expected for the child's age.



This optional IDEA category is the only one to specify an age range. Hawaii created different eligibility criteria for 3 through 5 year olds and 6 through 8 year olds. The younger group of children qualify with a delay in one (1) area), while 6 through 8 year olds must show delays in three (3) of five (5) areas.

The majority of preschool children with IEPs in Hawaii for School Year 2023-24 were eligible under the category of DD.



1323/1982 students

Source: Section 618 Child Count Data

Factors that may exclude eligibility under DD:

- a lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math,
- limited English proficiency,
- an environmental or economic disadvantage, or
- cultural factors.



Use of the DD category enables young children to access special education and related services without being assigned a specific disability.

Areas of Developmental Delay (DD)

To be found eligible for special education and related services under the category of DD for ages 3 through 5, a child must be delayed in at least one (1) of the following areas:

Area

Examples

Motor Development:

The way children use their body to move.



Difficulty using hands and arms to complete activities for eating, scribbling, handling or playing with toys, using arms and legs to balance, walk and run.

Communication:

The way children use speech, sounds, gestures, or facial expressions to express their needs or share ideas.



Trouble being understood by others, asking and answering questions, talking about feelings or telling stories. Challenges following directions or understanding others.

Academic Development:

Skills that build the foundation for reading, writing and math.



Difficulty handling and looking at books or pictures, following stories, learning letter sounds and names, counting and scribbling.

Adaptive Behavior:

Skills needed to become independent.



Difficulty playing with others, following directions, toileting, adapting to change.