



Missouri Eligibility Criteria for Young Child with a Developmental Delay

Young Child with a Developmental Delay (YCDD) Definition

“Young Child with a Developmental Delay” means a child ages three (**3**) through seven (**7**) who is experiencing developmental delays, as measured by appropriate evaluation instruments and procedures, in one or more areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social/emotional development, or adaptive development, and who needs special education and related services.

Note: Districts in Missouri are not required to use the term “Young Child with a Developmental Delay” for children in their district. They may choose to use one of the other eligibility categories. However, if they choose to use YCDD, they must conform to both the state’s definition, as well as the age range.

Criteria for Initial Eligibility for Young Children with a Developmental Delay

A child has a developmental delay when:

For children ages three (**3**) through five (**5**) (not kindergarten age eligible)

- A. The student’s development is at or below **1.5** standard deviations, or equivalent levels, in any **TWO** areas of development; OR
- B. The student’s development is at or below **2.0** standard deviations, or equivalent levels, in any **ONE** area of development as compared to typical development.
- C. The child needs special education and related services.

Areas of development that can be used to determine eligibility include, physical, cognitive, communication, social/emotional, or adaptive.

Professional Judgment

A child may also be eligible when:

- A. The evaluation report documents, through formal and informal assessment, that a significant deficit exists and a child is eligible for services even though the standard scores, or equivalent levels, do not meet the stated criterion levels above, or
- B. The team may determine that a child, who is functioning above the stated criterion levels and because of intensive early intervention, is eligible for services based on expected regression if services were to be terminated.

For students ages **5** (kindergarten eligible) through **7**

- A. Students eligible for kindergarten or first grade may continue as a Young Child with a Developmental Delay if they were identified **prior to becoming eligible for kindergarten**.

Note: The category of YCDD shall not be used to determine continuing eligibility for special education services for a student who is 7 years of age before August 1 of a given school year. Students would need to meet the criteria for a different educational category.

Source: Missouri State Plan for Special Education - Part B, Regulation III: Identification and Evaluation.