# Child Development Centre Referral Guidelines - When should I refer to CDC?

## FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

Refer when there is one of the 4 criteria listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Significant parent/caregiver and other agency concern about child’s development</th>
<th>These concerns include delayed development in two or more of the areas listed below:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| | • Significant learning difficulties for example, consistently achieving at Stanines 1 or 2 across major curriculum areas  
• Communication skills – difficulty communicating what they want or understanding what’s being communicated to them  
• Social/play skills – not playing or interacting with others/toys as you would expect a child of this age to be doing  
• Conceptual skills – problems with thinking and problem solving skills  
• Significant language delay – problems with speech or understanding language  
• Fine motor skills – difficulties with using the small muscles of the body for things like holding a spoon or picking up small objects  
• Gross motor skills – problems with using the large muscles of the body for things like running, jumping, climbing stairs  
• Self-care skills – difficulties with activities like toileting, dressing and feeding  
• Restricted/repetitive behaviours – has set rituals or routines and changes to these cause upset, or unusually strong interests in particular topics/toys/objects etc.  
• Difficulties with swallowing and/or eating  

**Please note**

- These concerns must be seen across settings (home, school, community)
- Informed consent has been gained, specifically  
  - The family understand that CDC is a disability service, whose business is identifying and supporting children with disabilities  
  - The family understand that assessment at CDC is not undertaken for the purposes of accessing additional educational supports  
- If the primary concern is learning, prior to referral the child will have had more than one year of stable schooling and additional learning supports, including RTLB or equivalent, without progress  

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For further information on child development please refer to:
http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html

OR

2. Gross or fine motor difficulties affecting function in daily life across settings. These difficulties need to be out of proportion to other areas of the child’s development.

- Fine motor skills – difficulties with using the small muscles of the body for things like holding a spoon or picking up small objects
- Gross motor skills – problems with using the large muscles of the body for things like running, jumping, climbing stairs

OR

3. A diagnosed disability needing to access specialist CDC services such as Paediatric services, Splinting clinic, Orthopaedic Clinic, Feeding Clinic, Soiling Clinic or equipment.

Please read the following information before referring for these services:

OR

4. Child with vision and/or hearing impairment and with additional developmental delays/concerns (as per 1.)

Where to refer school-aged children with other concerns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern:</th>
<th>Refer to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/Attention Deficit Disorder</td>
<td>Nga Ringa Awhina/ Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for children 6 years and older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ADHD/ADD) with no developmental or significant learning concerns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour problems (mild)</td>
<td>Community based parent education programmes (e.g. Incredible Years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour problems (severe)</td>
<td>Community agencies OR Nga Ringa Awhina/ Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health (e.g. mood, anxiety or eating disorders)</td>
<td>Nga Ringa Awhina/ Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Learning Disorders (e.g. dyslexia)</td>
<td>School supports or private assessment agencies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Speech delays, with no other developmental concerns. | School can refer to Ministry of Education or family may consider private speech therapy
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Fine or gross motor problems impacting on ability to access the school curriculum | School can refer to Physical Disability Service

**Referral information**

CDC accepts referrals from health services, education services and community/welfare agencies.

- The referral must be written with the knowledge and consent of the child’s parents/carers.
- Referrals must be in writing, clearly describing the developmental concerns and supported with any other reports or information.
- If the child does not have a pre-existing diagnosis then completion of our School Information Form is also required. Please contact CDC if there are any problems with getting your child’s school to provide this information.

Referrals can be made by using our referral form:


Referrals should be posted or faxed to:

Referral Coordination Centre  
Waikato Hospital  
Private Bag 3200  
Hamilton 3240

Fax: 07 839 8817

To discuss a referral further, please contact Child Development Centre, 07 839 8709