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Learn the Early Signs of Cerebral Palsy

Center for Persons With Disabilities

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LEARN THE EARLY SIGNS OF CEREBRAL PALSY

A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that the average prevalence of cerebral palsy (CP) in 8-year-old children is 1 in 303 or 3.3 per 1,000.

Cerebral palsy is a group of disorders that affect a person's ability to move and keep their balance and posture as a result of an injury to parts of the brain, or as a result of a problem with development. Often the problem happens before birth or soon after being born. Cerebral palsy causes different types of motor impairment in each child. A child may appear to be a little clumsy or awkward, or be unable to walk at all.

If a parent or a pediatrician has concerns about a child’s motor development, there is immediate help available through the early intervention program (for children under 3) or public school (for children 3 and older) in each community. These programs will provide a thorough evaluation for the child, offer a diagnosis or referral for diagnosis, and provide services and resources that the child and family may need. The sooner these services can start, the better off the child will be.

To learn more about the signs and causes of cerebral palsy and what to do if you think your child might have it, please go to the CDC website.