

Nurture Pods
EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN

NewsPod

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Knowing more about GDD

Global Development Delay

GDD Awareness



Global Development Delay

What is it?

Characterized under developmental disabilities which include ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorders, Global Development Delay (GDD) is a term that is usually reserved for kids who are less than 5 years old. GDD refers to a delay in at least 2 or more areas of developmental domains. These domains include:

- Speech/language
- Social/personal
- Daily living activities
- Gross/fine motor skills

Common signs of GDD include having limitations in conceptual abilities, poor social and communication skills, delay in the acquisition of milestones such as sitting or walking, and using aggressive behaviour as a coping mechanism. These delays are apparent in comparison with the skills attained by their peers.



Causes & Treatments for GDD

Causes of GDD consist of the following:

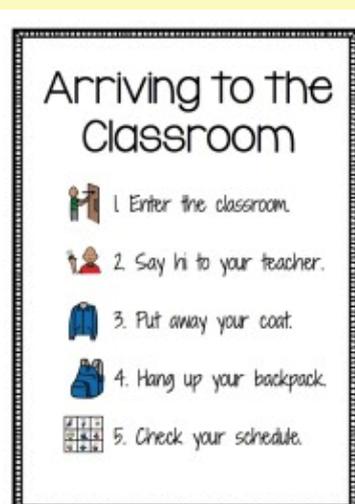
- Genetic factors/abnormalities (E.g. Down's Syndrome)
- Prenatal and postnatal
- Prematurity

Having said that, however, the main cause of the condition is often difficult to determine. As each child is unique and they develop in their own way and pace, there is no one treatment that works for every child. Any treatment plan would be targeted to focus on the child's individual needs.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

At Nurture Pods, we believe in a tripartite alliance (child's own school, parents and Nurture Pods intervention services), hence a variety of treatment options are available to help in alleviating and improving the skills of each child which experiences delays.

One such service would be the Home Intervention Programme which is developed based on the principles of Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA). ABA has proven to show maximum efficiency in helping children develop essential skills not only in the social and academic domains but also in their language development and communication. As Home based ABA is on a 1 to 1 basis, it is highly individualized and is good in building up your child's behaviour and cognitive abilities.



Besides the Home Intervention Programme, Nurture Pods also provides centre based intervention through a specially designed programme which aims to help your child in achieving independence and developing the essential individual and social skills. This intervention focuses on building up classroom routine and transition skills to different parts of the classroom.

Through the use of a structured learning environment, your child will be able to transit to the national school curriculum in a more meaningful manner. Your child will receive an education plan that is tailored to his/her needs that target development in the following areas which include and are not limited to:

- Literacy and language
- Mathematical concepts
- Fine and gross motor skills



In addition to the individualized education plan, occupation therapy services are also included. These services aim to help improve the child's several domains such as self-regulation, sensory difficulties and needs as well as their playing skills.

Another approach that could help target GDD would be through the School Shadowing Support to assist your child in developing the appropriate behaviours in school and to help him/her build up his/her social interaction skills with the goal of independence. Along with the centre based services, this approach ensures that the skills in the centre is being generalized into a real setting and promote social interaction with neuro – typical children. Our trained shadow therapists will assist your child in the following areas:

- Integrating your child in the school environment
- Facilitation of personal, social and intellectual development
- Promoting the child's independence
- Establishing a positive learning environment



Rest assured that your child will receive the utmost support that he/she needs and also, as a parent, you will be trained and given information on the techniques used so that you can use them at home.



School visits will also be made to the respective schools to share the best practices with the school personnel.

Your child will still have the potential to learn and develop and achieve their goals and potential. By combining the above mentioned approaches into a coherent whole, this would ensure the best outcome for the child.

References

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