



# DEVELOPMENTAL CONCERNS



**Genetics Specialists** help families learn whether genetic changes may explain their child's health concerns. A visit to a genetics specialist can be helpful if a child has multiple developmental concerns (sometimes called "red flags") such as:

## Physical Features

- **Birth Defects** such as cleft lip or palate
- **Unusually large/small head size for age** (macrocephaly/microcephaly)
- **Unusually short or tall height for age** (stature)
- **Differences in Facial Features** (small chin, wide forehead)
- **Frequent Joint Dislocations** (hip dysplasia)
- **Spinal and Skeletal Differences**

## Movement

- **Motor Delay** (not holding head, rolling over, crawling or walking)
- **Lack of Coordination** of hands and fingers
- **Floppy or low muscle tone** (hypotonia)
- **Stiff or high muscle tone** (hypertonia)
- **Muscle Weakness**

## Speech

- **Delayed or Hard to Understand Speech**
- **Not Babbling**
- **Not Responding**
- **Repeating others people's words or phrases** (echolalia)

## Growth

- **Slow or Uneven Growth**
- **Slow Weight Gain** (Failure to Thrive)
- **Growing Too Fast/Too Tall**
- **Fatigues Quickly When Active**
- **"Growing Pains" and Muscles Aches**

## Digestive/Feeding

- **Difficulty Swallowing**
- **Extreme Struggles with Latching and Breastfeeding**
- **Use of a Feeding Tube**
- **Constantly Hungry**
- **Poor Appetite and/or Extreme Pickiness**
- **Persistent vomiting**
- **Gagging on Food**

## Behavior

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**
- **Repetitive Movements**
- **Constantly Crying**, low frustration tolerance
- **Lack of Eye Contact**
- **ADHD/Impulsive or Hyperactive Behavior**
- **Social/Emotional:** Difficulty interacting with others, not smiling
- **Not Interested in Play**

**REMEMBER, EVERY CHILD WITH A GENETIC CONDITION HAS RED FLAGS BUT EVERY CHILD WITH RED FLAGS DOES NOT HAVE A GENETIC CONDITION.**



Talk to your pediatrician or medical home about a referral to genetics

Click here to learn more: [nymacgenetics.org/new-jersey](https://nymacgenetics.org/new-jersey)





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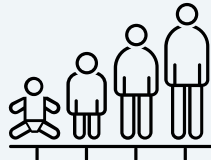
**Genetics specialists help families learn whether genetic changes may explain their child's health concerns. A visit to a genetics specialist can be helpful if a child has multiple developmental concerns (sometimes called "red flags") such as:**

## TOO



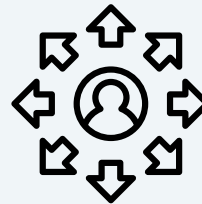
**early**

ex. a girl getting her period at an early age



**young**

ex. getting cancer earlier than 50

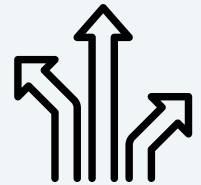


**many**

ex. tumors or illnesses



**tall or short**

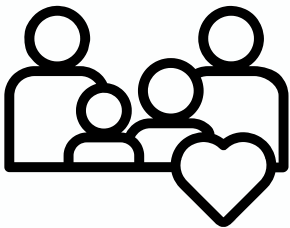


**different**

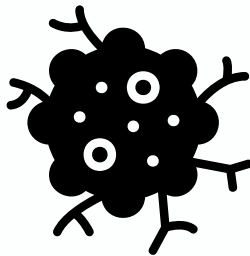
ex. unusual presentations of a condition

## OR

## TWO

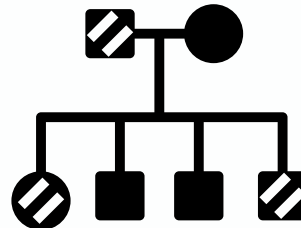


**in the family with the same condition**



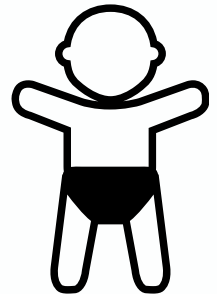
**cancers**

ex. one individual having cancer twice or two related cancers in a family



**generations**

ex. grandfather and father have the same condition



**birth defects**

ex. cleft lip, cleft palate, hole in the heart, etc.

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