

# DEVELOPMENTAL COORDINATION DISORDER

## What is DCD?

- A motor skills disorder
- Characterized by delay in developing motor skills (e.g., walking down stairs or tying shoes) or trouble with coordinating movements
- Limits a child's ability to do everyday things (e.g., eating alone, dressing, etc.)

**Overall, children with DCD have difficulty with age-appropriate skills or activities. This makes it hard for them to participate at the same level as typically developing peers.**

## What Can You Do?

- If you have concerns about your child's motor skills, talk to your doctor!
- Talk to a speech-language pathologist about early intervention for speech & language skills
- Work with your child's school to develop ideas on how to help your child in the classroom

## Common Comorbidities

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Learning disabilities
- Specific Language Impairment (SLI)

## Speech & Language

- Children with DCD may:
  - Be late talkers
  - Have trouble understanding the meaning of words
  - Produce slow and unclear speech

## Challenges

- Preschool – coloring, using scissors, playing at recess
- Elementary – writing clearly
- Daily living:
  - Using a fork or spoon
  - Buttoning a shirt
  - Unwrapping packages

**For more information, visit:**  
<https://canchild.ca/en/diagnoses/developmental-coordination-disorder>



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