

## Welcome to Developmental Pediatrics!

I hope you enjoy your time here and learn. Please feel free to discuss your needs and let's find a way to meet each of them. There are several common conditions you may encounter while you are here.

**Cerebral palsy** is a static encephalopathy of the developing brain causing difficulty with movements and balance. The pattern can be paraplegia (legs only), hemiplegia (one side of the body), or quadriplegia (all muscle groups affected). There are usually problems with seizures, developmental delay, constipation, muscle cramps, sleeping, and inattention.

**Autism** is a qualitative impairment in social skills, qualitative impairment in communication, and repetitive behaviors. This definition encompasses many issues, and two different children with autism can look very different. There can be problems with sleep, learning, constipation or diarrhea, sensory issues, and behavior.

**Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder** is characterized by inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, and distractibility. It is very easy to treat with behavior management and medicines in some children, and very difficult to treat in others.

Please use your time wisely. Be efficient when interacting with patients and their families. Complete the paperwork while we are in the room together – including the assessment and plan, and sign your note. You will not have time to complete paperwork after the visit. You will get more from the visit if you focus on what is happening now and how to help with the current issues than rehashing the past. The family members will appreciate you if you focus the interview on current events. You can get some historical information from the chart after you see the patient and complete the progress note.

Please focus on the current task. Do not surf the internet, text message, etc. If you are waiting to present a patient, there are several medical resources available to you. Feel free to use them. There is a variety of teaching material available on the shelves above your workspace.

Please let me know how I can help you learn developmental pediatrics and further your career in medicine!

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