



AK FOUNDATION CHARITY
Empowering Families, Enabling Futures:
Cerebral Palsy Support

THE EARLY STAGES



THE EARLY SIGNS OF CEREBRAL PALSY

Recognising the early signs of cerebral palsy (CP) and getting a diagnosis are crucial for early intervention and management. Signs and symptoms can vary widely depending on the type and severity of CP, but some common early signs are listed below to guide you.

If you notice any of these signs or have concerns about your child's development, it's essential to seek guidance from health-care professionals.

Management of CP often involves a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals, including paediatric specialists, therapists, educators, and social workers who work together to address the various aspects of the condition and provide comprehensive care.

Early intervention and support are critical for children with cerebral palsy to maximise their potential and improve their quality of life. Therefore, if you suspect that your child may have CP or if you have concerns about their development, don't hesitate to seek evaluation and support from healthcare professionals.

Recognising the symptoms:

Ages one to three months (and older)

- does not kick
- seems stiff or unduly floppy
- looks asymmetrical - for example, more active on one side than the other
- takes a long time to feed and has poor sucking reflex
- does not smile by ten weeks
- does not meet mother's eyes
- does not follow object held six inches away and moved horizontally

Ages three to six months (and older)

- is still unable to hold up head
- does not put hand in mouth
- has limbs that seem very stiff (as if the muscles were always tight)
- has very floppy limbs
- has head thrown back
- has feet turning out
- crosses legs in scissor action
- has feet pointing at toes rather than flat
- tends to curl up in a foetal position
- tends to throw arms and body backwards
- has eyes rolling backwards or sideways
- does not turn to sound
- is extra sensitive to touch demonstrated by excessive crying on physical contact
- does not seem to recognize familiar people
- is not cooing, gurgling or, later, babbling
- does not reach for objects
- does not roll over from front to side
- dislikes being on stomach and is unable to lift head in this position.

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