

NOS Magazine would not publish a comment responding to another parent asking for others perspective

Donna

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 AT 9:01 PM

I have a question... I have an 8 yr old son, who is developmentally delayed. I think as he gets older this will have less impact, as he does continue to grow and develop, just slower than his peers. But what this means is that he is often not emotionally ready for the same thing his peers are, and I often try to explain to his school teachers, that his emotional maturity is more like that of a 4 -5 yr old. I come to that conclusion by reviewing developmental milestones that are offered for children. Should I not do this? I wouldn't do this if he were an adult, but as a child I feel it is important to let some people know that he isn't ready for something, YET. He is also large for his age, which tends to let people think he is far older than he even is. But I am interested in others perspective on this, other than my own.

REPLY

Ivanova Smith

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 AT 10:51 PM

Hello Donna, that is interesting situation. I think that reminds of how malnourishment affected my development in first years of life. I was born with developmental delays and when I was adoption I size of younger age. I think it important to be specific to motor function and not on the age. I see age something gain in experience and not development development is how fast or slow body grows function and not really have to deal how long person been born. I can say I developed slowly I did not learn to speak till five and half. My learning was slowed but that don't change fact I have 28 years of experience. When I was five I was not mentally younger but my body developed at slower rate then those around me. That don't effect time. I still lived on this earth for sudden amount of time that affect how old I am.

example. John body grows at slower rate this may affect memory and learning. He may learn in different way.

I hope that was helpful.

Ivanova Smith

REPLY

Cheryl Felak

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 AT 3:11 PM

Your comment is awaiting moderation. (comment was denied)

Hi Donna,

I'm curious is your son has an IEP or on a 504 plan? If so, wouldn't the teachers already be aware of his developmental delay and emotional maturity? If your son does not have these then I would suggest talking with the school psychologist/special ed team for an evaluation. There needs to be individualized goals for your son and the issues of developmental stages would be addressed in those goals.

One of my sons was born large and continued to be much taller and bigger than his peers – he is typically developed but all throughout his growing years I had to keep reminding people that he was really 2-3 years younger than he looked by his size since people expected him to act much older than he

really was. It's kind of the opposite of what you are experiencing but does illustrate that we all develop on our own timeline and that needs to be respected.

One of my other sons has a type of leukodystrophy and has been delayed in all areas of development from birth. He is 23 years old now and still continues to learn things but is still very delayed in many skill areas and thought processes. I see using figures of speech (similes) helps us to communicate to those who do not know our loved ones helps them to understand the intellectual, emotional, behavioral and physical disabilities because sometimes these delays.

Also, it depends on the person you may be talking to and how your son feels about what you are saying. Some people are offended, some are not. In my situation, my son does not care and it also helps him to understand that his behavior needs to improve and helps him to identify what is appropriate for him and what is not.

Sorry this may not address your question. It is something that you will work out as time goes on and as your son grows and develops.