


Atypical Gross Motor Development & Potential Impacts on School Participation

Access to the Physical Environment

Children may have difficulty:

- Moving safely in hallways or crowded spaces
- Climbing stairs or accessing playground equipment
- Maintaining posture while sitting at a desk

 **Potential Impact:** Reduced independence, increased fatigue, and limited access to learning spaces.

Participation in Classroom Activities

Gross motor challenges can affect:

- Transitions (lining up, moving between centers)
- Movement-based learning (songs, actions, group activities)
- Postural stability needed for fine motor tasks like writing

 **Potential Impact:** Decreased engagement and efficiency in daily classroom routines.

Physical Education & Recess

Children may struggle with:

- Running, jumping, balancing
- Catching/throwing or participating in team sports
- Keeping up with peers

 **Potential Impact:** Limited participation, fewer opportunities to build fitness and skills.

Social Participation

Motor differences can lead to:

- Difficulty joining peer play
- Avoidance of group games
- Reduced confidence

 **Potential Impact:** Risk of social isolation and lower self-esteem.

Independence & Self-Care

Tasks that may be harder:

- Carrying backpacks or materials
- Dressing for outdoor activities
- Navigating lunchroom routines

 **Potential Impact:** Increased reliance on adults or extra time needed.

Attention & Learning Readiness

Challenges include:

- Fatigue from maintaining posture
- Reduced attention and focus
- Frustration impacting motivation

 **Potential Impact:** Lower academic engagement and endurance.

Overall Takeaway

Atypical gross motor development **may** affect both:

- **Access** → physically navigating and using the school environment
 - **Participation** → actively engaging in learning and social experiences
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