Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- To identify the possible effects of different types of risk factors in children.
- To highlight the possible protective factors and their influence on children’s developmental trajectories.
- To evaluate the possible outcomes of preterm birth.
- To identify risk and protective factors in atypical development (language disorders, autism spectrum disorders, genetic syndromes).

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Critical analysis of development contexts and gene – environment relationships.
- Development of observation and assessment skills.
- Ability to analyse the developmental outcome in relation to the baseline situation.
- Ability to develop screening and follow-up programs for some developmental disorders.

Contents

We will consider the risk factors (biological, perinatal, environmental, individual) that can lead to developmental disorders and their possible protective factors. Particular attention will be given to preterm birth, language impairments, autism spectrum disorders and genetic syndromes.
Detailed program

- Biological, perinatal and environmental risk factors.
- Preterm birth as a risk factor and possible protective factors.
- The influence of environment and individual characteristics on children's developmental trajectories.
- Biological and environmental risk factors in language impairments.
- Protective factors in language and cognitive development (environmental support, screening programs, interventions).
- Risk factors in autism spectrum disorders and possible treatments.
- Risk factors in genetic syndromes (Down syndrome, sex chromosome trisomies, rare genetic syndromes).
- The role of the environment (society, school, rehabilitation) in the development of children with genetic syndromes.

Prerequisites

Nothing specific.

Teaching methods

Lectures, video observation, clinical case reports.

Assessment methods

Written exam of open questions and oral examination.

Textbooks and Reading Materials


Slides on the website.