**Examples of Common Risk Factors for Poor Developmental Outcome**

**Biologic Factors**

**Prenatal factors**

* Maternal PKU or HIV
* Prenatal teratogen exposure (e.g. Dilantin or valproate)
* Prenatal alcohol or substance abuse
* Major congenital anomalies
* Multiple minor physical anomalies
* Small for gestational age
* Maternal tobacco use
* Lack of prenatal care  
  (The risk of prematurity and subsequent developmental disabilities is 3-5 times greater in children born to women who do not receive prenatal care.)
* Family history of deafness or early hearing loss

**Perinatal and Postnatal Factors**

* Birth weight 2500 grams or less, especially if less than 1500 grams
* Respiratory distress requiring mechanical ventilation
* Asphyxia - Apgar score of four or less at 5 minutes
* Neonatal seizures
* Intracranial hemorrhage or periventricular leukomalacia
* Hyperbilirubinemia - levels requiring exchange transfusion
* Microcephaly or macrocephaly (more than 2SD above or below mean)
* Central nervous system infection
* Congenital infection (TORCHeS)
* Abnormal neonatal neurologic exam
* Failure to thrive

**Environmental Factors**

* Maternal age less than 16 years
* Parental intellectual disability
* Parental psychiatric disorder -
* Parental alcohol or substance abuse
* Lack of permanent housing
* Inadequate care giving
* History of abuse or neglect in parent or sibling
* Extreme poverty

<http://medicalhome.org/physicians/developmental-surveillance-screening/>