

Toddlers

Most children walk independently around the age of one year and start to say single words such as 'Mama' and 'Dada' at this time. Girls with Triple X are usually a little later doing these things i.e. they may do these at around 18 months of age. If there is no speech at all by two years of age, the GP should be consulted about checking the child's hearing and other aspects of development. When speech is definitely delayed or pronunciation is unclear then speech therapy starting at around 3-4 years of age will help. Usually the problem disappears after a few years. Many girls with Triple X take longer than average to be toilet trained and to come out of nappies. This may take until age 3^{1/2}-4 years. Girls with Triple X may also be a little slower than average at learning to play cooperatively with other children of the same age.

School days

When Triple X girls go to school, some will experience rather more difficulty learning to read and write than usual. Early recognition of this helps the child not to become overwhelmed or disheartened. Extra teaching on a one-to-one basis will gradually overcome the problem and may also be necessary with maths. Careful study of the exact difficulties a child experiences will enable the remedial or special teaching to be correctly focused. Research has shown that Triple X girls often have difficulty remembering what they have learnt recently and that they need the information repeated more times in order to be able to fix it in the memory. If the teacher or parent reacts impatiently to this genuine difficulty for the Triple X girl, this is likely to generate anxiety and confusion in the child which will be counterproductive.

For some Triple X girls, but certainly not all, making friends at school can be a problem. This may result from lack of self confidence if they have found that they fail at many things in which others of the same age appear to succeed quite effortlessly. An accepting attitude of the parents to the child's worth as a person rather than an expectation of high achievements is helpful in building self confidence.

Intelligence

When intelligence tests have been carried out on girls with Triple X it has been found that their average score was about 20 points lower than the national average. Within families, the intelligence level (sometimes called IQ) of Triple X girls tends to be lower than that of their sisters and brothers. It is important to remember, however, that IQ tests were designed to predict school success and give no information about many important aspects of character, like determination, honesty and reliability, which are of major importance in finding and keeping a job.

Growth in childhood and during adolescence

There is a tendency for some Triple X girls to grow rather more rapidly between four and nine years, particularly in their legs. In rare instances this may be excessive and, in such cases, medical advice should be sought. Development of the breasts starts around age 11 and periods start between 13 and 15 years of age.