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Developmental disorders such as dyslexia, autism and fragile X syndrome can affect a wide range of cognitive and social functions that arise in childhood. Researchers suspect that multiple genes in early development, as well as environmental factors, may influence the course of these disorders, but surprisingly little is known about their etiology. In this issue, we present several perspectives on the neurobiology of developmental disorders and their relationship to one another. This special focus is sponsored by the March of Dimes, Cure Autism Now and Autism Speaks. (pp 1209–1229)
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