

Autism Resource Guide

A Sourcebook for Families

Autism Resource Center of Arkansas



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The Autism Resource Guide:

A guide for families of children diagnosed with an
Autism Spectrum Disorder

From the Autism Resource Center of Arkansas

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So, you've just found out that a child you love is on the autism spectrum.

This can take a long time to sink in, and it's OK to feel overwhelmed right now. Your pediatrician or psychologist has probably thrown a lot of terms around that you don't understand yet, along with ideas for treatment options you haven't heard of before.

Please take the time to process your feelings and understand that you didn't cause this. Remember that doubt and guilt have never been successful treatments for autism. What we know is that diligence, good therapy, and loving caregivers are what give these children the best shot at success. Please also take a moment to recognize how truly unique and beautiful your child is! There is no other child like yours, and aspects of your child's disability is part of what makes him or her so unique.

And you don't have to do it alone. This resource guide will help to break down all the wonderful help available to you in central Arkansas.

Where to Begin

Start by reading some literature about your child's diagnosis don't have to become an expert yet, but you will quickly learn some strategies to handle everyday living as well as therapy evaluations and school meetings. You may want to copy or print some of these resources for loved ones to help them understand what you and your family are going through.

Then, to get some real-life advice, sign up with a local support group (there is more information on support groups on page 8). Post your questions on the message boards and attend the monthly meetings. At first, you may feel that you are living and breathing autism. But learning about other people's experiences will save you time, money, and stress overall. Best of all, these groups help you to celebrate successes with your child that others may not understand.

Getting Help

Many kinds of therapy are available to help your child adapt and succeed. Central Arkansas has many private outpatient facilities that offer physical, occupational, and speech therapies. Consultants can work with your family on more intensive, in-home methods. Most school districts have early childhood intervention programs for children ages 3-5 at no cost to the parents. Each public school has a team of professionals available to the children who attend. Some children are even eligible for homebound therapy services.

In addition, since you have a definite diagnosis now, you can apply for financial assistance to cover the costs of intervention. Some government programs have long approval times or waiting lists, so it's best to get started on those applications as soon as possible. Ask someone at your therapy facility for the application. Some have sample applications to use as a guide, or they may have someone on staff to walk you through the process.

Finally, you'll have to make some decisions about your child's education. No single school option is perfect for all children on the autism spectrum, but fortunately we have many choices in this area. With the help of your therapy team and support group, you can decide which is the best fit for your child.

It's a lot to take in, so get comfortable and read on. Remember to take this one step at a time, and most importantly, know that you are not alone!

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is autism, anyway?

Autism Speaks defines autism as “a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication.”

Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a ‘spectrum disorder’ that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees.”

Autism affects about 1 in every 54 children according to the Centers for Disease Control and is classified as a spectrum disorder. * Essentially, autism is diagnosed on a sliding scale of sorts. Each person with autism can present completely differently and has their own distinct set of strengths and weaknesses.

*With the May 2013 publication of the DSM-5 diagnostic manual, all autism disorders (childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified and Asperger syndrome) were merged into one umbrella diagnosis of ASD.

2. What are some common characteristics of autism?

No two people with autism are exactly alike. But all people with ASDs generally have impaired communication and social skills, repetitive behaviors, and narrowed interests.

Some other possible characteristics can include:

- Language delays (can be verbal and non-verbal communication)
- Gross and fine motor skill delays
- Self-stimulating behaviors such as hand-flapping or rocking
- Intense and/or prolonged emotional reactions
- Echolalia (repeating expressions repeatedly at inappropriate times)
- Aversion to touch
- Sensory issues (over or under sensitivity to light, tastes, smells, pain, etc.).

3. What causes autism?

This can be a touchy subject, but there is no definitive, single cause of autism. Based off studies, Autism is most likely caused by genetic and/or environmental factors. Autism can be caused by a genetic disorder (such as Rett syndrome or fragile X syndrome), or by genetic mutations that change the way the brain cells communicate. These genetic mutations can be both inherited and spontaneous. There is still research being conducted to study possible environmental factors that may contribute to autism.

- A child’s sex (boys are roughly four times more likely to develop autism)
- Family history of autism.
- Children born before 26 weeks gestation
- Presence of other disorders (like tuberous sclerosis)

4. How is it treated? Is there a cure?

As of now, there is no cure for autism. But autism is highly treatable. Early intervention is extremely important because it is the best predictor of success for autistic adults.

Many therapy methods treat the symptoms of autism, such as speech therapy for language delays and occupational therapy for fine motor and sensory problems.

Relationship Development Intervention, aim to treat the brain deficits themselves to encourage more flexible thinking.

Here is a link to read more about RDI: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/relationship-development-intervention-rdi-0>

Pivotal Response Treatment is a play-based behavioral treatment that is initiated by the child and seeks to target “pivotal” areas of a child’s development.

Here is a link to read more about PRT: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/pivotal-response-treatment-prt-0>

Some medications can be used to help control symptoms. A common example would be hyperactivity.

5. Will my child have to attend a special school?

Your child can attend a school especially for children with disabilities, but s/he certainly doesn’t have to. Public schools are legally bound to educate children on the autism spectrum. Depending on your child’s abilities, s/he may spend time in a self-contained classroom with other special needs kids, or s/he may do better in a mainstream classroom with the help of a paraprofessional (aide). Many children with autism respond well to structured educational programs. See the Public Schools section for more information.

6. Will my child be able to live independently?

This is a common concern for parents with autistic children. The shortest answer is that it depends heavily on the individual. Many autistic adults live successful, independent lives. With the proper intervention, people with moderate to high-functioning ASDs can memorize the routines and procedures to get through everyday life on their own. Social situations will always be a challenge but are not impossible to handle.

One very important thing to realize is that children with autism have unique strengths. Because they think in concrete terms, they can be honest and impartial, have strong memorization skills, and be loyal and hardworking. They are often excellent problem solvers.

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Learning about Autism

Part I: Useful Links

The first thing you’ll want to do is get on your computer and learn about your child’s diagnosis. Here are some links to get you started:

Arkansas Families First

<https://arfamiliesfirst.com>

Autism Speaks: newly diagnosed

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/newly-diagnosed>

Future Horizons, Inc.

www.fhautism.com

Future Horizons is a publishing company that specializes in books related to Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The National Autism Association:

www.nationalautismassociation.org

Remember: Not all information on the web is created equal. Fact-check everything. Bounce ideas off your child's doctors and therapists as well as your support group.

Autism Speaks: Resources in Arkansas:

[Search | Autism Speaks](#)

The Autism Research Institute:

www.autism.com

The Autism Society of America:

www.autism-society.org

The National Institute of Health (NIH) Autism Resource Network:

www.autismresearchnetwork.org/AN/

Arkansas Human Services:

<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/ddds/autism>

Signs of autism in children

Part II: Autism in young children

Signs of autism in young children include:

- not responding to their name
- avoiding eye contact
- not smiling when you smile at them.
- getting very upset if they do not like a certain taste, smell or sound.
- repetitive movements, such as flapping their hands, flicking their fingers or rocking their body.
- not talking as much as other children
- not doing as much pretend play
- repeating the same phrases

Autism in older children

Signs of autism in older children include:

- not seeming to understand what others are thinking or feeling.
- unusual speech, such as repeating phrases and talking 'at' others.
- liking a strict daily routine and getting very upset if it changes
- having a very keen interest in certain subjects or activities
- getting very upset if you ask them to do something.
- finding it hard to make friends or preferring to be on their own.
- taking things very literally – for example, they may not understand phrases like "break a leg."
- finding it hard to say how they feel.

Autism in girls and boys- Autism can sometimes be different in girls and boys.

Autistic girls may:

- hide some signs of autism by copying how other children behave and play.
- withdraw in situations they find difficult.
- appear to cope better with social situations.
- show fewer signs of repetitive behaviors. This means autism can be harder to spot in girls.

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Learning about Autism

Part III: Books

The following books are a great starting point for building your library. After you read them, you can then lend them out to friends, family, and teachers who need help understanding your child's special needs.

The Official Autism 101 Manual, by Karen L. Simmons

Autism Spectrum Disorders: The Complete Guide to Understanding Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, and Other ASDs, by Chantale Sicile-Kira and Temple Grandin

Ten Things Your Student with Autism Wishes You Knew, by Ellen Notbohm

Ten Things Every Child with Autism Wishes You Knew, by Ellen Notbohm

Playing, Laughing, and Learning with Children on the Autism Spectrum: A Practical Resource of Play Ideas for Parents and Careers, by Julia Moor

The Autism Sourcebook: Everything You Need to Know About Diagnosis, Treatment, Coping and Healing, by Karen Siff Exkorn

The Everything Parent's Guide to Children with Autism: Know What to Expect, Find the Help You Need, and Get Through the Day, by Adelle Jameson Tilton

Changing the Course of Autism: A Scientific Approach for Parents and Physicians, by Brian Jepson

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Support Groups

Having family support is essential to your child's journey with autism. Belonging to a support group is highly encouraged. You will have many questions in the next several weeks as you produce a plan and put the pieces together. The support group can aid in answering those questions since they have been through the same situation.

The following is a list of support groups in central Arkansas:

Community Connections and the Autism Resource Center of Arkansas

Community Connections (CC) is a nonprofit organization in Central Arkansas dedicated to providing extra-curricular activities for children with special needs and to supporting their families. Programs include football, soccer, theater, cheerleading, art, music, basketball, tennis and much more! All programs are offered to families' free-of-charge!

Community Connections has also developed the Autism Resource Center of Arkansas (ARC of AR), which focuses on providing information and support to area families raising children with autism. The ARC of AR offers a week-long summer day camp called Camp Connect, for kids ages 8-15 years of age. They also offer parent consultations, young adult social groups and educational/support videos, and online parent support meetings. Periodically they also offer workshops and videos on various topics such as transition resources, special education law, dealing with problematic behaviors, and maintaining marriages.

Community Connections Support and Encouragement GroupMe Chat: Families can connect with a mentor and other parents on a regular basis, through live interaction via text. Registration is found in the CC weekly newsletter.

Family to family Mentoring program:

Families of older children/young adults share advice, tips and what they have learned from personal experience with families of younger/newly diagnosed children with similar diagnoses. Mentors can provide support on how to overcome obstacles and challenges.

Mental Health Resources: A list of mental health professionals who work with children with special needs and their families are available on the website. Webinars, videos, and small group sessions with licensed counselors will also be offered throughout the year.

Educational Workshops: Free workshops designed to educate and support caregivers of children with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Topics are geared to help with challenges families face in raising children with special needs.

Respite Care

Hosted in Conway, Little Rock, and Bryant these monthly events provide quality care and fun activities for children with special needs and their siblings while caregivers receive a much-needed break.

For more information about Community Connections and/or Autism Resource Center of Arkansas, visit our website at www.communityconnectionsar.org or contact Anna Valenzuela at Anna@CommunityConnectionsAR.org.

Arkansas Autism Resource and Outreach Center (AAROC) at UAMS

AAROC provides comprehensive services for the Arkansas Autism community. Coordination of services consists of the most current resources, education, and training possible. They work with families upon diagnosis and provide family training on an individual consult basis. For more information, visit the website at www.aaroc.org.

Central Arkansas Autism Families (Private Facebook Group):

[This Facebook group](#) exists to post questions, social activities, meetings, seminars, fundraisers, and parent-only gatherings for families with children on the autism spectrum or other developmental representatives of local autism groups are posting their activities, lectures, and fundraisers on this group. If you have any questions you may contact administrator, Dawn Itzkowitz at brycesbrigade@comcast.net , or request to join the Facebook page.

Arkansas Autism Foundation (AAF):

Arkansas Autism Foundation was founded in February of 2017 and is a non-profit founded by local autism advocates who want to make a direct impact on the autism community in Arkansas. They help individuals and families with autism across the lifespan and collaborate with other local autism groups to provide autism friendly events, raising awareness about autism and providing important resources and support to families. Through funding of grants for innovative or already existing programs, they are committed to improving ease of access to therapy, promoting activities targeting development of social skills, opening doors to jobs or internships at local companies, supporting and encouraging local entrepreneurship, and possibly creating businesses that seek specifically to train and hire individuals with autism! You can follow their Facebook page: [Arkansas Autism Foundation](#). They can also be contacted at (501)951-0115 or via email at arkansasautismfoundation@gmail.com.

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Getting Help: Intervention and Therapy

Part I: Outpatient Treatment Options

Outpatient therapy is therapy that takes place in a clinic but doesn't require a residential stay. These methods include occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy.

Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy (OT) can help kids participate in everyday life either by modifying their environments (like their homes and classrooms) or by teaching adaptive skills when the environment cannot be modified. For example, an OT might help a child with fine motor delay to use a pencil by providing hand strengthening exercises and a rubber grip. Or, they might recommend a beanbag in the corner of a classroom for a child to take breaks when s/he feels overwhelmed at school.

Occupational therapists also provide sensory integration therapy for children whose behaviors stem from sensory overload. In addition to doing sensory activities in the facility, the therapist can also provide a program for parents to do at home.

Speech Therapy

Speech therapy for autism can range widely depending on the child's needs. Speech therapists address issues with speech and pragmatics as well as problems with food texture and swallowing that can lead to picky eating and poor weight gain.

High-functioning kids with no real speech delay often lack social language, so a speech therapist can offer pragmatic language therapy (teaching social skills) to help them along. Children with mid-range speech delays can benefit from exercises that address vocabulary, pronunciation, attention and memory. Children with autism, who are completely nonverbal can be taught to use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) methods. These can include electronic speech devices or flash card systems to help the nonverbal child communicate.

Physical therapy

Physical limitations in children with autism can range from very mild to severe. Some have trouble with gross motor skills, like walking or running. This can be caused by low muscle tone or just poor coordination. A physical therapist can provide activities to help strengthen this area of development. Physical therapists work with early

intervention programs in schools as well as in outpatient facilities. Some also work privately to provide hippotherapy (therapeutic horseback riding) aqua therapy (therapeutic swimming), and other sorts of recreational methods to encourage motor development.

Free Programs

The state of Arkansas sponsors Early Childhood programs and services for children up to the age of five. When your child turns five, s/he is eligible for services through the local public school district. For more information on the Early Intervention and Early Childhood program in your area, contact your local DHS office, or you can visit the following website: <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dccece/Pages/default.aspx>

Early Intervention

The state of Arkansas also sponsors Early Intervention services that are available through the First Connections Infant and Toddler Program for children from birth to 36 months. Any child with a developmental delay, or a disability that will lead to a delay, is eligible for services. The services include the therapies mentioned above as well as nutritional and health services, and even respite care.

For more information, visit: <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/ddds/Pages/FirstConnectionsProgram.aspx>

Outpatient Therapy Facilities in Central Arkansas

Easter Seals Arkansas

www.ar.easterseals.com

Easter Seals Arkansas has pioneered efforts to meet the needs of children and adults with disabilities and families throughout Arkansas. The following is a list of Easter Seals locations in Arkansas:

Developmental preschool and OT center- 3920 Woodland Heights Road in West Little Rock

Children's Rehabilitation Center- 3818 Woodland Height Road

Grand Prairie Child Development Center- 1801 N. Buekle Road in Stuttgart

Butler Adult Living Center- 11805 Fairview Road in Little Rock

Pediatrics Plus Therapy Services

www.pediatricsplus.com

Pediatrics Plus is a growing outpatient therapy facility based in Conway with satellites throughout the state.

Currently, Pediatrics Plus offers play-based occupational, speech, and physical therapy, as well as help with sensory integration and language pragmatics.

Conway

2740 College Ave.
Conway, AR 72034
(501) 329-5459

Russellville

411 Elmira Ave. Ste #4
Russellville, AR 72802
(501) 890-5494

Little Rock

32 Rahling Circle
Little Rock, AR 72223
(501) 821-5459

North Little Rock

2400 Crestwood, Suite 107
North Little Rock, AR 72116
(501) 753-5459

Sherwood

1540 Country Club Rd.
Sherwood, AR 72120
(501) 753-5459

Arkadelphia

702 Hickory Street
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
(870) 464-1337

Alma

344 Fayetteville Avenue
Alma, AR 72921
(479) 632-4600

Rogers

2323 W Chestnut St, Suite 6
Rogers, AR 72756
(479) 346-5459

Van Buren

2010 Chestnut Street
Van Buren, AR 72956
(479) 471-9600

UCA Speech-Language Hearing Center

<https://uca.edu/slhc/>

The Speech-Language Hearing Center, located on the UCA campus, has been serving the community and surrounding areas for over thirty years. Individuals of all ages with a variety of communication needs can receive a comprehensive speech and language evaluation and therapy services. Communication disorders can be the result of strokes, traumatic brain injury, dementia, delayed speech and language development, and many other causes. Individuals who receive services at the UCA SLHC might be experiencing difficulties with stuttering, articulation, literacy, swallowing, voice, language delays, dementia, tongue thrust and cognition. Clinical faculty at the UCA SLHC are certified by the American Speech Language Hearing Association in speech language pathology or audiology and are licensed by the state of Arkansas. Client services are provided by graduate students in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders under the supervision of the clinical faculty.

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Getting Help: Intervention and Therapy

Part II: Intensive Treatment Programs

In addition to occupational, speech, and physical therapy, some parents also choose more intensive in-home programs to help their children progress. Consultants for some of these programs are available in central Arkansas. You can also research any of these programs and apply the principles to your daily activities at home and in school.

Applied Behavior Analysis

Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) is widely accepted by doctors and parents, mostly because of long-term research and a track record of anecdotal success stories. ABA involves one-on-one reward-based interaction between the ABA therapist and the child. The therapist begins with simple activities followed by lots of positive reinforcement, then works up to more complicated social interactions.

ABA therapy locations in Arkansas:

-**Pediatrics Plus** offers ABA therapy at their various locations throughout the state. They have the option of offering this service in the home through the Arkansas Autism Medicaid Waiver program, in the clinics, or as a part of their developmental preschool programs for children 18 months to 6 years old.

-**Hope bridge Autism Therapy Center** offers ABA therapy with locations in Bentonville, Conway, Fayetteville, Hot Springs, Little Rock, North Little Rock and North Little Rock. They offer advice specific to your child's age and needs. For more information, visit: <https://www.hopebridge.com/>

-**Blue Sprig** provides ABA therapy in Little Rock and Fort Smith. They often work alongside pediatricians, psychologists, and speech therapists to reach your child's goals. For more information, visit: <https://bluesprigautism.com/>

Relationship Development Intervention

Relationship Development Intervention (RDI) is a family-based behavioral treatment. It aims to build social and emotional skills with parents being trained as the primary therapist in most RDI programs. RDI builds on the idea that "dynamic intelligence" (meaning the ability to think flexibly) is the key to improving an autistic individual's quality of life. There are generally 6 objectives of RDI:

- 1-Emotional referencing: the ability to learn from emotional experiences of others.
- 2-Social Coordination: the ability to observe and control behavior successfully in social relationships.
- 3-Declarative Language: the ability to use verbal and nonverbal communication to express curiosity and share perceptions/feelings.
- 4-Flexible Thinking: the ability to adapt plans as situations change.

5-Relational Information Processing: the ability to put things into context and solve problems that are not clear cut.

6-Foresight and Hindsight: the ability to think about past and future experiences.

We currently have no RDI providers in Arkansas; they are out of state.

TEACCH Autism Program

TEACCH is a classroom-based method designed for children with autism. Kids with autism have strong visual skills, so the program involves pictures and visual schedules for students to help with routines and transitions. The goal is for the children to be organized and able to work independently once they understand what is expected of them. Training and consultation for the program are conducted at and around the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, but materials are available on the Division TEACCH website at www.teacch.com.

Dennis Developmental Center

The Dennis Developmental Center (DDC) specializes in the assessment of developmental conditions that result in delayed milestones, inability to communicate effectively, inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, learning problems, and poor or atypical social interactions. They also provide evaluations and therapy for families who are in need.

Schmieding Developmental Center

The Schmieding Developmental Center provides comprehensive developmental assessments of children from birth to 21 years of age. They offer comprehensive evaluations as well as intervention and treatment recommendations.

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Calling the Doctor: Medical Treatments for ASD Part I: Developmental Pediatricians

While many families continue to use a regular pediatrician or family practitioner for their child's basic care, some may need a doctor with specific knowledge of developmental disabilities. In this case, a developmental pediatrician is the best doctor for the job. A developmental pediatrician is a board-accredited pediatrician who has also received sub-specialty training and certification in developmental-behavioral pediatrics. Developmental pediatricians specialize in the diagnosis of autism spectrum.

During your visit with a developmental pediatrician, you will likely spend a good amount of time discussing your child's habits, developmental history, as well your child's unique abilities and challenges. The pediatrician will also evaluate your child's height, weight, coordination, responsiveness, play habits, movement, and will likely note any possible psychological or speech issues. After evaluating, the doctor will then provide a report and diagnosis, if the diagnosis is autism, the doctor should also provide specific information about the level of autism and its associated challenges as well as specific options for treatment.

To find a developmental pediatrician, it may be easiest to ask your regular pediatrician/family provider. You can also contact the Dennis Developmental Center in Little Rock at UAMS. For more information, visit: <https://www.archildrens.org/programs-and-services/dennis-developmental-center?&journey=symptoms>

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Calling the Doctor: Medical Treatments for ASD Part II: Biomedical Intervention

Biomedical intervention consists of a wide range of approaches for treating autism, and there has not been much research conducted on its possible benefits. This is not to say that there is not good cause for implementing this specific type of intervention for your child, rather to encourage personal research and caution before reaching a decision.

The idea behind biomedical intervention is that certain neurological disorders are caused by environmental shocks that compromise a child's gastrointestinal/neurological systems. Problems in these compromised areas are said to be tendencies towards constipation or diarrhea and/or abnormal cravings for certain kinds of foods (gastrointestinal), tendencies towards allergies, migraines, and abnormal reactions to infectious diseases (immunological), and tendencies towards hyposensitivity/hypersensitivity to sensory impressions (neurological).

A typical approach to biomedical intervention includes restrictive diets: gluten-free, casein-free, etc. Foods will typically be restricted in a specific sequence (Dairy products such as casein and lactose, then gluten (found in grains), eggs, nuts, and berries that cause allergies in children, fruits and vegetables that contain certain substances such as salicylates, and more.

For those interested in learning more about biomedical interventions, Community Connection's Autism Resource Center has several books available for check out.

Doctors in Arkansas

The following doctors in Arkansas follow a biomedical approach when treating patients with autism.

Dr. Betsy Hendricks runs the Arkansas Center for the Study of Integrative Medicine, where she applies both mainstream and biomedical techniques to treat children with autism.

For more information about Dr. Hendricks, visit her website at [Conditions Treated - Arkansas Center for the Study of Integrative Medicine \(betsyhendricksmd.com\)](http://ConditionsTreated-ArkansasCenterfortheStudyofIntegrativeMedicine(betsyhendricksmd.com))

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Paying for Treatment: Financial Aid

Now that you know what treatments are available, you can start to calculate the cost. Unfortunately, no law in Arkansas requires insurance companies to cover autism-related treatment. In fact, most of them don't, so be prepared to seek alternative ways to cover the costs of therapy. Luckily, many government programs will help you do just that.

Medicaid

Medicaid has several programs to help cover therapy and services for kids with special needs. Depending on your financial situation, some of these programs can overlap.

Here's a breakdown of the terms you'll hear thrown around:

Start applying for services as soon as you have a diagnosis, because the waiting lists are very long. Apply for everything at the same time so you don't have to dig out the same important information over and over again.

The **Arkansas Autism Partnership (AAP)** is the Medicaid waiver program for young children with autism between the ages of 18 months and 8 years, however your child must be accepted and begin the program before his or her 5th birthday in order to be eligible. The AAP provides funds for families to receive one-on-one intervention in the home for 20-25 hours per week. More information and links to applications can be found at:

<https://uofapartners.uark.edu/projects/autism-partnership/>

Community Employee Support (CES Waiver) offers clients with intellectual or developmental disabilities with all major life activities- living independently, working at a job, etc. This is a program that helps autistic individuals live inclusively within their community rather than in an institutional setting. For more information, call the DHS Division of Developmental Disabilities Services at (501) 683-5687.

The **TEFRA Waiver** (commonly called “TEFRA”) assists families with children who are younger than 19 years old to receive care in their homes. TEFRA can help pay for the cost of the services your child is eligible for (and some families may not have to pay anything).

For families that have already obtained a disability determination, DHS has 45 days to determine your child’s eligibility for the program. If you have not established a disability with the Social Security Administration, then a medical review team will be assigned to determine whether your child has a disability. This process can take up to 90 days. If you are approved for the TEFRA program, you should know that you will need to renew your child’s application each year. Many parents agree that it’s best to fill out both TEFRA and ACS Waiver applications at the same time. A lot of the questions are similar, and this way, you only have to gather your information once.

The best option to get in touch with someone and to begin filling out the application for TEFRA is to contact your local DHS office.

Idea: Your insurance company may or may not cover interventions for autism. Please talk with your health care provider about being specific with the diagnosis associated with referrals. For example, a diagnosis of “Fine Motor Delay” is a legitimate diagnosis for a referral to occupational or physical therapy.

ARKids First

ARKids First is a state-funded program that provides health insurance for children when their parents can't afford private coverage. ARKids will help to pay for certain therapies and office visits.

If your whole family already receives Medicaid for regular medical coverage, then your kids are covered under ARKids A until the age of 19. There are no copays, deductibles or premiums for kids under 18.

ARKids B includes slightly higher income families who are having trouble affording health insurance for the kids. There are some copays and the coverage is not as complete.

For more information on ARKids First regarding eligibility and coverage, visit

<http://www.arkidsfirst.com/home.htm>

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI is a monthly government check that can help with the extra costs of caring for a child with special needs. To receive SSI benefits, your child must have a condition that causes “marked and severe functional limitations” that are expected to last for more than 12 months. Income of family members as well as the child is considered.

To apply for benefits, call the Social Security Administration directly at 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.ssa.gov to locate your nearest Social Security office.

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School Choices

Part I: Day Treatment Programs and Preschools

Pediatrics Plus Developmental Preschool (Various locations throughout the state)

The [Pediatrics Plus Developmental Preschool](#) is a Children's Health Management Services childcare center that adjoins Pediatrics Plus Therapy Services. The school specializes in caring for children who qualify for at least two types of therapy treatment. Though most of the children receive therapy, the preschool is an integrated setting where 20% of the children are typically developing. With a nurse and psychological examiner on staff, the children who receive therapy are continually evaluated to ensure that they are progressing. And, because the center is attached to Pediatrics Plus, therapists can walk the children to and from their appointments and work closely with the staff to outline their specific goals.

For more information, visit: <https://www.pediatricsplus.com/>

Milestones Services, Inc.

The Milestones program is a school and therapy program for children from birth to five years with developmental disabilities or delays or who are at risk for developing delays.

For more information, visit: <https://milestonesconway.org/about-us/>

Easterseals (Little Rock Developmental Preschool and Stuttgart Developmental Preschool)

Easterseals is an inclusive preschool that also offers outpatient therapies. Therapists from Easter Seals work with the kids on-site and can often integrate therapy into the classroom. Children with and without disabilities, ages three months to five years, are welcome. There is always a waiting list, so apply early.

To learn more, visit their website at: <https://www.easterseals.com/arkansas/our-programs/childrens-services/developmental-preschool.html>

Francis A. Allen School for Exceptional Children

The Allen School (www.theallenschool.org) is located in the historic Hillcrest area of Little Rock. The staff, which includes teachers, special education teachers, aides, and therapists, supports children with developmental disabilities like autism and cerebral palsy. The school accepts children with and without disabilities from birth to five years of age.

Pathfinder, Inc.

Pathfinder, Inc. is an integrated day habilitation center for children 6 weeks to five years old. Structured like a traditional daycare, the staff at Pathfinder teaches self-help skills and social skills in addition to offering outpatient therapy. To be eligible for services, your child must have a medical diagnosis that involves a developmental delay and qualify based on evaluation standards.

For more information visit their website at www.pathfinderinc.org

Friendship Community Care Developmental Preschool

These schools are open for children 6 weeks to five years old with developmental disabilities or delays or children who qualify for the Arkansas Better Chance program. FCC prepares children for success in integrated and therapeutic classroom settings. They offer various forms of therapy as well as transportation services and a complementary development screening.

For more information visit the FCC website at <https://www.fccare.org/children-3/>

KIDS FIRST

The KIDS FIRST centers (www.arpediatrics.org/kidsfirst) are pediatric day health clinics in association with the UAMS Department of Pediatrics. KIDS FIRST has several sites around the state of Arkansas. These clinics combine a preschool teaching staff with a team of medical professionals including doctors, nurses, social workers, dieticians and therapists. The result is a completely comprehensive approach to teaching kids from birth to age five with special healthcare needs.

For more information, you can call the Kids First Program at:

For the Older Kids

Central Arkansas has two private K-12 schools for kids with special needs.

Access Academy

ACCESS Academy offers the most comprehensive special education program in Arkansas. They serve students age 5 to 21 with a curriculum that focuses on essential academic subjects including: oral expression, comprehension, spelling, reading instruction, written expression and math. They also offer instruction in literature, science, social studies, technology and fine arts.

Access has an Early Childhood Campus located off of Breckenridge Drive in Little Rock and an Academy located off of North Mississippi Street in Little Rock.

For more information about their programs, visit: <https://accessgroupinc.org/>

The Academy at Riverdale

Located in Little Rock, Ark., Easter Seals Academy at Riverdale is an accredited private school and outpatient therapy clinic that offers services to students with developmental disabilities in the central Arkansas area. There is a scholarship program available to students.

Their website has more detailed information as well as information about their curriculum. You can visit it at this link: <https://www.easterseals.com/arkansas/our-programs/childrens-services/easterseals-academy-at.html>

The Reform Alliance

is a nonprofit organization that seeks to ensure every student, K-12, has equal access to quality education. Their goal is to provide parents and students with school options (homeschool, public school, private school, micro-schooling, etc.). They also work to help families obtain the Succeed scholarship. Here is a link to their website:

<https://thereformalliance.org/>

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School Choices

Part II: Public Schools

Most kids on the autism spectrum attend public schools.

Public schools have three major advantages for children with autism diagnosis. The first is that it is completely free. The second is that public school officials are bound by law to ensure that your child receives an adequate education. The third is that public school therapists provide treatment for your child at no cost to you. When you get ready to send your child to public school, s/he will be independently evaluated by therapists who work for the district. (If s/he has been evaluated recently for Early Childhood services, they may skip this step and just transition instead.) After the evaluation, the therapists will review the results with you and make a recommendation for in-school treatment, like speech or occupational therapy.

You, your child's teacher(s), therapists, and a representative from the school district will meet to form an **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)** for your child. The IEP can include modifications for the classroom, teaching, and assignments. It will also include a treatment plan for your child if s/he qualifies for therapy. The IEP will also address your child's classroom setting, such as whether s/he will be taught in a self-contained classroom or be mainstreamed into a regular one. You can invite whomever you choose to an IEP meeting. Experienced parents recommend that you bring a behavior consultant who can help you formulate a Positive Behavior Plan for your child. You can also make any request you like for your child's school situation. If the school district representatives

refuse your request, simply ask for **Prior Written Notice (PWN)**, a written explanation of why the school district cannot comply with your request.

Your child is entitled to what is known as a **Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE)** in the **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)**. This means that s/he is entitled to an adequate education, at no charge, and in the most mainstream environment appropriate to the child's level of functioning. For example, a high-functioning child with Asperger's Syndrome will not be placed in a specialized classroom if s/he is capable of learning with typical students. The Arkansas Department of Education offers the services of special education consultants known as CIR/CUIT (Centralized Intake and Referral/Consultant Unified Intervention Team). A CIR/CUIT consultant can visit your child's school, develop a Positive Behavior Plan for him or her, and help you to advocate for needed services. They also provide Monthly Family Training. You can fill out a CIR/CUIT referral at <http://arksped.k12.ar.us/sections/circuit.html>.

If you have any other concerns, you can contact the Department of Education Special Education Division at (501) 682-4221 or visit their website at <http://arksped.k12.ar.us>.

Wright's Law

It's important to know your rights when you help to create and implement your child's IEP. You'll need to understand the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** of 2004. Navigating the law can be difficult and intimidating, and new questions always seem to come up when creating an IEP. www.wrightslaw.com is the premier website for special education law and advocacy. This will be your go-to website for all things IEP. Wright's Law was created by Peter Wright, a special education attorney, and Pam Wright, a clinical psychologist and special education advocate. Together they have published a series of books and journals, along with the website, to apply the complex IDEA law.

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Advocates for Children and Adults with Disabilities

If the going gets tough, you will need an advocate. The following is a list of advocates in the central Arkansas area.

Arkansas Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

The DDC is a governor-appointed council of community members who advocate for independence and integration of persons with disabilities.

For more information visit <http://gcd.dar.gov/>

or by phone at: 501-682-2897 or contact DDC at DDCStaff@dfa.arkansas.gov

The Disability Rights Center

The DRC is a private, non-profit protection and advocacy organization located in Little Rock.

1-800-482-1174 V/TTY or 501-296-1775

You can also contact them at info@disabilityrightsar.org

You can also visit their website at <http://www.disabilityrightsar.org/>

Arkansas Department of Education: Special Education Division

Call the ADE special education division with any questions about IDEA, your child's IEP, or to resolve any disputes with the staff at your child's school.

(501) 296-1775 or TTY 501-682-4222

<http://arksped.k12.ar.us/>

Arkansas Human Development Centers

The state of Arkansas has 5 [Human Development Centers](#) around the state that provide rehabilitation training, employment training, and therapy services for persons with disabilities.

Arkansas Office of Long-Term Care (OLTC)

Provides information about long-term care facilities for special needs children and adults, as well as assistance with investigations into fraud or abuse. Their website is: <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dpsqa/office-of-long-term-care>

You can also contact the **Arkansas Ombudsman**, a nursing home residents' rights organization. For more information, call 501- 682-8952 or visit the Ombudsman website at www.arombudsman.com.

Arkansas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

Contact the Fraud Control Unit if you think someone is abusing the Medicaid program or one of its recipients. Visit <https://arkansasag.gov/arkansas-lawyer/medicaid-fraud-control-unit/> for more information.

Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities

Call the DDD at (501) 683-5687 for assistance and information regarding everything from Waiver services to disability rights protection.

Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinators

Contact your Arkansas ADA Coordinators for help enforcing the ADA law with any public entity. ADA Coordinators are split up by region, Arkansas falls under Region 6, also called the Southwest ADA center that is based out of Houston, Texas. You can contact them by calling: 800-949-4232, or get in touch with their affiliate program that is located in Arkansas by sending an email to Melanie Thornton at: mthornt@uark.edu

Governor's Special Education/Disabilities Liaison

Contact (501) 682-2897. This is a general office number, so you'll have to ask for the liaison specifically, or you can visit the following website to view the current Liaison as well as his/her contact information: <https://gcdd.arkansas.gov/council-information>

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List of Providers

Arkansas Alliance for Disability Advocacy

The Arkansas Alliance for Disability Advocacy educates and empowers disability advocates, builds awareness about the issues people with disabilities face every day, and fosters collaboration between advocacy programs to give self-advocates, peer advocates, parent advocates, and legislative leaders the tools they need to be active participants in the disability rights movement. The Alliance provides oversight, administrative support, and technical assistance to three advocacy projects: Self-Advocates Network Development, Community of Champions and Partners in Policymaking.
disabilityrightsar.org/arkansas-allaince-for-disability-advocacy/

Disability Rights Arkansas

DRA is the independent, private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, Protection and Advocacy organization authorized by Federal and State law to protect and advocate for the civil and legal rights of people with disabilities in Arkansas. The mission of Disability Rights Arkansas is to vigorously advocate for and enforce the legal rights of people with disabilities. They envision an Arkansas where people with disabilities are equal members in their communities and can dictate the course of their own lives through self-determination. They advocate for transition services for school-age youth with disabilities.
<https://disabilityrightsar.org>

CareSource PASSE

CareSource PASSE is made up of five leading Arkansas health care groups and is a multi-state health plan. They work to help people with complex health needs. CareSource is nationally recognized for leading the industry in providing member-centric health care coverage. CareSource is one of the nation's largest Medicaid managed care plans. In addition to Medicaid coverage, CareSource has a diverse offering of insurance plan on the Health Insurance Marketplace. The company also offers Dual Eligible Special Needs plans that help consumer close the gap of coverage as they age. CareSource serves 2 million members across five states supported by a growing workforce of 4,500.

www.caresource.com/ar/plans/caresource-passe/

Arkansas Able

AR Able gives those with disabilities the ability to save. New AR Able helps individuals save, while preserving their SSI and Medicaid. Enjoy tax-advantaged saving without impacting your current benefits. Choose options that fit your goals and comfort level. The Member Plan is sponsored by the state of Arkansas and administered by the Office of the Arkansas State Treasurer.

<https://savewithable.com/ar/home.html>

Special Olympics Arkansas

The mission of Special Olympics Arkansas is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. The program is supported by individual donations, private and corporate sponsorships, state appropriation, grants, and special fundraising events.

www.specialolympicsarkansas.org/

ICAN of Arkansas

Increasing Capabilities Access Network (iCAN) is connecting Arkansans with the technology they need to help them learn, work, communicate, and live more independently. Their services offered are available to all Arkansans, regardless of age, geographic area, disability, income, or eligibility for any other service. They also have an assistive technology reuse program that reclaims and distributes previously owned assistive technology and durable medical equipment to ensure that the equipment is being used for the full value of its lifecycle.

www.ar-ican.org

Arkansas Autism Foundation

The Arkansas Autism Foundation (AAF) was founded in February 2017 by local Arkansas-based autism advocates who want to make a direct impact on the autism community in Arkansas. AAF helps individuals and families with autism across their lifespan and provides autism-friendly events and relevant workshops and training opportunities. They raise awareness about autism and provide important resources and support to families. Our mission is to build bridges to independence for individuals with autism, and we are committed to funding yearly grants for innovative or already existing programs that improve the lives of those affected by autism.

www.arkansasautismfoundation.org

Project SEARCH Arkansas: ACCESS Initiative

Project SEARCH Arkansas: ACCESS Initiative is an innovative job-training program providing a nine-month internship program for young adults with developmental disabilities. Interns in the program complete (3) ten-week rotations at a partnering business with the goal of gaining the necessary skills to obtain competitive employment. Upon completion of the program, staff aids with finding employment within the community and continued support during employment.

<https://projectsearcharkansas.org/>

Easterseals Arkansas

Easterseals Arkansas is leading the way to full equity, inclusion, and access through life-changing disability and community services. They have worked to enhance quality of life and expand local access to healthcare, education,

and employment opportunities. From child development centers to physical rehabilitation and job training, Easterseals Arkansas is empowering people with disabilities, families and communities to be full and equal participants of society. Easterseals is about helping others, breaking down barriers, changing lives, promoting independence, fun and much, much more. It was founded to be a resource for children living with disabilities. They have expanded their mission to include helping all Arkansans living with disabilities to reach their highest potential. www.easterseals.com/arkansas

Pathfinder Inc.

Pathfinder, Inc. is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to the development and implementation of individualized strategies designed to provide citizens with developmental disabilities and/or behavioral health needs total access to community life. A basic concept of Pathfinder is that all people, regardless of individual differences and intellectual abilities, have an inalienable right to programs and services which are consistent with their needs and help them to achieve their maximum potential. Pathfinder, seeks to provide the best possible programs and services for individuals we serve with developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs to expand their growth opportunities. Pathfinder's focus always remains on helping to enrich the quality of life for the people we serve. www.pathfinderinc.org/

Arkansas State University HOWL Transition Program

The H.O.W.L. transition program helps students with special needs receive the education they deserve. H.O.W.L. stands for Helping Our Wolves Learn. The program provides the A-State education experience to students with intellectual disabilities or autism who may need mentoring, social skill improvement, help career planning, tutoring, or help with independent living skills. Through this program students engage in experiences that enhance and enrich social, educational, and interpersonal skills to achieve their aspirations. <https://www.astate.edu/college/education/howltp/>

Arkansas Support Network

They recognize and support every person's right to be included in the life of the community. They envision a future where individuals with developmental disabilities have: power and choice in making decisions and directing their lives, relationships with people whom they love and care about and who love and care about them, recognition for the gifts that they bring to our community, active involvement in the communities where they live, meaningful employment which is free of discrimination and maximizes their employment capacity, and opportunities to live healthy, safe, and enjoyable lives. Their intent is to support the presence and participation of children and adults with developmental disabilities in their homes and communities. www.supports.org

EMPOWER

EMPOWER offers a four-year, non-degree college experience program for students with cognitive disabilities that incorporates functional academics, independent living, employment, social/leisure skills, and health/wellness skills in a public university setting with the goal of producing self-sufficient young adults. The University of Arkansas program is offered for students who demonstrate the ability to safely live independently, sustain employment, and socially integrate during their enrollment. The program progresses with an emphasis on workplace experience, community integration, and independent living with transitionally reduced supports. Students who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate of program completion. <https://www.uark.edu/>

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' (ARS) mission is to prepare Arkansans with disabilities to work and lead productive and independent lives. To achieve its mission, ARS provides a variety of training and career preparation programs. We have 19 field offices across the state serving all 75 counties where individuals can receive assistance with accessibility and training needs that can lead to successful employment. <https://dws.arkansas.gov/about/arkansas-rehabilitation-services>

University of Arkansas- Pulaski Tech 3D Program

The University of Arkansas - Pulaski Technical College's 3D Program offers young adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) post-secondary education and preparation for employment through its certificate programs. The 3D program promotes and assists in life skill and technical skill development in the areas of culinary arts, hospitality, and baking. It is a post-high school program. Their mission is to provide access to high-quality education that promotes student learning and enables individuals with developmental disabilities to develop to their fullest potential through unique, targeted programs for business and industry.

www.uaptc.edu/3d

Arkansas Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD or Council) promotes integration, inclusion and independence for Arkansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). They do so by identifying the most pressing needs of the DD community in our state and addressing those needs by conducting outreach, fostering change and supporting capacity-building efforts. The Council works to improve the independence and productivity of Arkansans with developmental disabilities and to ensure their integration into the community.

<https://gcdd.arkansas.gov>

Barnabas Prep

At Barnabas Prep, they are a collegiate program, but they're also a partnership. We're committed to helping your student become the very best version of themselves away from home. This Christ-centered program based in Branson, Missouri is uniquely designed to equip young adults with disabilities to achieve high levels of independence. Barnabas Prep Mission: Equipping young adults with disabilities for a life of self-confidence, societal significance, and spiritual maturity in Christ.

<https://barnabasprep.org/>

Little Rock Parks and Recreation

The Therapeutic Recreation division of Little Rock Parks and Recreation provides programs for both youth and adults that enhance a participant's ability to enjoy recreational, leisure and social settings. Programs include an adult day program, youth summer day camp, social groups, recreational classes, community outings, and special events. Programs and activities are created and designed by recreational therapists to use recreation and leisure as a treatment modality to work towards achieving one's goals in a variety of areas to include socialization, motor skills and community integration.

<https://littlerock.gov>

Independent Case Management, Inc

ICM is a not-for-profit organization that provides home and community-based support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) throughout the state of Arkansas. Today, ICM supports over 280 people with IDD and has approximately 600 employees. The majority of funding stems from Medicaid services that ICM provides to people with IDD within their homes and communities. Other state-wide services include therapies for children with autism, an innovative community center in Little Rock, foster care, and employment supports for people with IDD. To support pre-employment skill readiness, ICM owns and operates three retail stores in Little Rock and a fried pie manufacturing business in Prescott. The main administrative office is located in Little Rock, Arkansas.

<http://icm-inc.org/>

Independent Living Services

Independent Living Services supports independence, purpose, and dignity for individuals with disabilities by providing quality service to the intellectually disabled community of Central Arkansas. ILS offers Medicaid Waivers, Residential Living-Group Homes and supported Apartments, Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, Transportation, Job Skills, Coaching, Placement, and Life Skills.

www.indliving.org

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Glossary of Autism Spectrum Disorders Related Terminology

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA): Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is a discipline that applies behavioral science interventions in real-world settings including schools, homes and clinics. The goal of ABA interventions is to improve socially important issues such as behavior problems and learning

Asperger's Syndrome (AS): A diagnostic label that was previously utilized to describe a person with an ASD who did not have a language delay or any co-occurring intellectual disability.

Autism: A commonly used term for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Autistic Disorder: A diagnostic label that was previously utilized to describe a person with an ASD.

Autism Spectrum Disorder: A developmental disability used to describe individuals who have difficulties with social communication/interaction and exhibit restrictive and/or repetitive patterns of behavior.

Childhood Disintegrative Disorder: A diagnostic label that was previously utilized to describe a person with an ASD.

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5): The official system for classification of psychological and psychiatric disorders prepared by and published by the American Psychiatric Association.

Developmental, Individual Differences, Relationship-based (DIR): An intervention framework that helps clinicians, parents and educators conduct a comprehensive assessment and develop an intervention program tailored to the unique challenges and strengths.

Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI): A fairly generic term for applied behavioral analysis (ABA-based) interventions, the focus is on very young children with ASD, usually younger than five, and often younger than three. The intensity of intervention is significant in the number of hours and in the ratio of child to instructor.

Echolalia: Repeating words or phrases heard previously. The echoing may occur immediately after hearing the word or phrase, or much later. Delayed echolalia can occur days or weeks after hearing the word or phrase.

High Functioning Autism: A colloquial term used to describe individuals with ASD who do not have a co-occurring intellectual disability.

Individualized Educational Program (IEP): A program that identifies the student's specific learning expectations and outlines how the school will address these expectations through appropriate special education programs and services. It also identifies the methods by which the student's progress will be reviewed. For students 14 years or older, it must also contain a program for the transition to postsecondary education, or the workplace, or to help the student live as independently as possible in the community.

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS): PECS is an alternative communication system that uses picture symbols. It is taught in six phases starting with a simple exchange of a picture symbol for a desired item. Individuals learn to use picture symbols to construct complete sentences, initiate communication, and answer direct questions.

Perseveration: Repetitive movement or speech, or sticking to one idea or task, which has a compulsive quality to it.

Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS): A diagnostic label that was previously utilized to describe a person with an ASD

Pivotal Response Training: An intervention based on the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA). Two pivotal behaviors, motivation and responsivity to multiple cues are taught. These behaviors are central to a wide area of functioning and positive changes in these behaviors should have widespread effects.

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Positive Behavior Supports: The broad enterprise of helping people develop and engage in adaptive, socially desirable behaviors and overcome patterns of destructive and stigmatizing responding.

Relationship Development Intervention (RDI): A parent-based intervention program where parents are provided the tools to effectively teach Dynamic Intelligence Skills and motivation to their child.

Rett's Syndrome: A neurological disorder that occurs only in girls. The initial symptoms include some that are associated with ASD.

Sensory Integration (SI): This is a term applied to the way the brain processes sensory stimulation or sensation from the body and then translates that information into specific, planned and coordinated motor activity.

TEACCH: A therapeutic approach broadly based on the idea that individuals with ASD more effectively use and understand visual cues. It focuses on promoting dependence by using items such as picture schedules to break down tasks step-by-step. This enables an individual to better comprehend and perform the task independently. This approach often aids receptive communication and sequential memory.

Theory of Mind: The ability to understand that others have beliefs, desires and intentions that are different from one's own.

Part II: Books

Verbal Behavior: A program of applied behavior analysis that focuses on teaching verbal behavior through a collection of highly effective teaching procedures taken from the science of behavior analysis.

Visual Supports: Written words, pictures and/or icons that convey information in visual medium. Individuals with ASD are typically visual learners and conveying information visually assists with comprehension.

This resource guide is a product of Community Connections' Family Support Resources.

To learn more please contact Community Connections Executive Director, Courtney Leach at courtney@communityconnectionsar.org or for family support services contact Community Connections Family Community Support Coordinator Anna Valenzuela at anna@communtiyconnectionsar.org.