

Next Steps

Now that your child has received a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, we hope this information will be helpful to you in understanding the diagnosis, and the first steps you should take to get your child the services he/she will need.

1. For children under 3 years of age, give the diagnosis letter we are giving you to your early intervention therapist. (If your child is not enrolled in EI, we will help you do so)

For children over 3 years of age, give a copy of the report to your child's school and request an IEP evaluation/meeting, and/or update

2. Call the Autism Resource Center for your area and complete an intake. This is a great resource which offers a wider range of services and support. Use this link to find the center in your area:
 - <http://www.autismresourcecentral.org/resources/massachusetts-autism-support-centers/>
 - or call Autism Resource Central (covers Central MA) at (508) 835-4278 and they will tell you who to call for your area
3. If you need help with information related to insurance call the Autism Insurance Resource Center at 774-445-4056 or visit <https://massairc.org/>. You may also access their online tool "Am I Covered" at <https://amicovered.disabilityinfo.org/>
4. Use the list of providers given during your visit to arrange for ABA or any other services the doctor recommended. Remember many of these services have waiting lists, so the sooner you can get your child on a wait list, the likelier you will receive services in a reasonable time period.
5. Your child qualifies for services through the Department of Developmental Services with the autism diagnosis. This may or may not include Social Security Disability Income (SSI).

DDS Area Office: Worcester
24 Southbridge St.
Worcester, MA 01608

Intake Eligibility Coordinator: 413-284-5040
Phone: (508) 792-6200

6. For more information about Autism Spectrum Disorder, ABA and disabilities, check out the following links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/facts.html>

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/100-day-kit>

<http://theautismhelper.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/ABA-101-Handouts-The-Autism-Helper.pdf>

<https://ma.exceptionallives.org>

7. Contact your clinician or our DBP social worker, Susan Zucker, LICSW if you have any issues or concerns while you try to obtain services or need assistance at (774)442-3028 prior to your next appointment.

Other Resources

Resources on Language Development

1. It Takes Two to Talk: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Communicate. Ayala Manolson. The Hanen Center, 2004; There is a good DVD available for parent training at www.hanen.org
2. The Conversation Train: A Visual Approach to Conversation for Children on the Autism Spectrum Hardcover – by Joel Shaul
3. www.asha.org. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association website has many resources to help you understand communication and communication disorders

Special Education Resources

Parent Guides to Special Education:

1. The Federation for Children with Special Needs and the Massachusetts Department of Education also collaborated on A Parent's Guide to Special Education. The Guide contains the most current and accurate information available regarding the special education system in Massachusetts. It is available in several different formats and three languages: English, Spanish, and Portuguese. It can be read or downloaded online for free at <http://www.fcsn.org/parentguide/pgintro.html> or a hard-copy can be ordered online or by calling (617) 236-7210. The Federation for Children with Special Needs also runs workshops for parents. www.fcsn.org
2. Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys can use Wright's Law for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities. - See more at: <http://www.wrightslaw.com>