

Connecticut's Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services



Ages 13-17

Health and Medical Care, and Related Therapeutic Interventions

- Understand the current diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Review *"Connecticut's Guidelines for a Clinical Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder"*
- Learn about evidenced-based practices and therapies
- Apply to the Department of Developmental Services Division of Autism Spectrum Services www.ct.gov/dds
- Explore behavioral supports if necessary
- Schedule regular re-evaluations and medical follow-up to measure progress and identify challenges
- Develop a system to organize your paperwork

Assistive Technology

- Learn about assistive technology devices and adaptations
- Explore financial assistance for assistive technology

Education

- Understand your child's IEP and your role in the IEP process
- Learn about 504 plans
- Review Connecticut's State Department of Education *"A Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut"*
- Learn about assessments and evaluations for children with ASD
- Complete functional and community-based assessments and interest inventories
- Contact CT State Department of Education Bureau of Special Education to file a special education complaint, if necessary
- Prepare for the move from middle school to high school
- Understand the requirements/criteria for exiting with a diploma vs. Certificate of Completion
- Develop an individualized Transition Plan with your child's educational team
- Develop Student Success Plans yearly
- Develop positive behavioral intervention plans as appropriate
- Understand your child's educational needs and placement options
- Address any instances of bullying immediately

- Understand matters of discipline including Connecticut’s guidelines regarding suspension and expulsion
- Review your child’s rights under IDEA
- Get involved in your local Special Education Parent Organizations (SEPTO)
- Explore summer time options
- Explore postsecondary education options
- Develop a system to organize education records

Life Skills

- Teach your child proper hygiene
- Teach your child money management skills
- Teach your child how to do simple household chores

Employment

- Develop skills that could lead to future employment
- Teach your child the “soft skills” needed for employment (i.e. being on time, dressing appropriately, taking directions)
- Make sure your child has a resume that includes a list of skills and competencies
- Explore employment services and opportunities
- Explore volunteer opportunities

Safety

- Address internet and technology safety
- Address Community and relationship safety

Social and Relationships

- Help your child learn about appropriate social skills
- Teach your child about his/her body and sexuality as age appropriate
- Engage in recreational and leisure activities that your child and family enjoy

Funding for Services and Legal Issues

- Apply to the Department of Developmental Services Division of Autism Spectrum Services www.ct.gov/dds
- Understand what it means to move from Entitlement to Eligibility
- Determine if your child is eligible for Social Security Benefits www.ssa.gov
- Apply for Social Security Benefits by the age of 18
- Explore insurance coverage for autism services
 - Connecticut Autism Insurance Law
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder Services under Medicaid—Value Options
1-877-552-8247
- Direct question regarding ASD insurance issues to the Office of the Healthcare Advocate
1-866-466-4446
- Explore the legal implications of reaching age 18 (Conservatorship/Guardianship)

- Learn about life planning tools
 - Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act
- Explore tax deductions and exemptions for children with special needs
- Develop a system to organize financial and legal records

Support

- Network with others at support groups
- Investigate support groups for your child
- Identify your support system
- Take care of yourself, your spouse and your other children

Transportation

- Explore transportation options including public transportation, mobility, and driver's license
- Help your child obtain a Connecticut Non-Driver Identification Card through the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles

Advocacy

- Learn how to advocate for your child
- Help your child learn self-advocacy skills
- Have an understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)