

Connecticut's Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services



Ages 6-12

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
- Contact CT State Department of Education Bureau of Special Education to file a special education complaint, if necessary
- Prepare for the move from elementary school to middle school
- Begin the conversation with your child's educational team regarding the transition planning process
- Develop Student Success Plans beginning in grade six
- 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
- Develop a system to organize education records

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

Safety

- Teach your child about stranger danger
- Discuss what is appropriate talk and touch
- Address wandering and elopement
- Be aware of potential household dangers
- Practice street safety
- Enroll your child in swimming lessons if possible
- Establish a safety network (including first responders) in case of an emergency
- Familiarize yourself with community play spaces and their boundaries as well as their proximity to possible dangers (i.e. roads, ponds, river, pools)
- Address internet safety.

Funding for Services and Legal Issues

- Apply to the Department of Developmental Services Division of Autism Spectrum Services www.ct.gov/dds
- Determine if your child is eligible for Social Security Benefits www.ssa.gov
- Explore insurance coverage for autism services
 - Connecticut Autism Insurance Law
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder services under Medicaid/HUSKY A—Value Options
1-877-552-8247
- Direct question regarding ASD insurance issues to the Office of the Healthcare Advocate
1-866-466-4446
- 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
- Identify your support system
- Take care of yourself, your spouse and your other children

Advocacy

- Learn how to advocate for your child
- Help your child learn self-advocacy skills
- Get involved in your local Special Education Parent Organization (SEPTO)