

The Next Steps

New Jersey

When Developmental Concerns are Identified

Discuss Concerns with Your Child's Doctor

If you or your child's primary caretaker has noticed that your child has not reached age-appropriate milestones, ask your child's doctor or nurse practitioner for a referral to a specialist. During your appointment, you should also bring up any vision, hearing, or dental concerns.

Contact Early Intervention (Birth to 3 years old)

The Early Intervention System is the primary point of entry for health and social services. The statewide toll-free number (888-653-4463) will connect you to someone who will guide you through the enrollment process.

Contact Preschool Special Education (3 to 5 years old)

Your local school district can give you information on transition planning, school placement and more. The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (609-292-4469) and Project Child Find (800-322-8174) provide information about special education programs throughout the state.

Schedule a Developmental Evaluation

An evaluation team will assess your child for developmental delays, make a diagnosis if needed, and recommend a treatment plan. To find out about Child Evaluation Centers near you, contact 609-777-7778 or visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/ooanjcec.html>

Connect with Local Community Resources

Community Resources include advocacy groups, parent workshops, and recreational programs. You may contact the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) at 800-654-7726 to learn more about what's available in your community.

Find Family/Social Support

Consider joining a support group or connecting with other parents to share experiences and resources. Some organizations that can help you get started include: NJ Parent to Parent (201-960-7159), Mom2Mom (877-914-6662), The Family Resource Network (800-376-2345), and Autism New Jersey (800-428-8476). You can also get in touch with your county's Family Support Organization (FSO). To find your county's FSO visit: www.state.nj.dcf/families/support/support


Mental Health and DD Services

PerformCare NJ (877-652-7624) connects children and their families to a variety of behavioral health and developmental disability services.

Contact Special Child Health Case Management

Your county's Special Child Health Services (SCHS) Case Management Unit will create an individual service plan to address your child's medical, educational, developmental, social, and economic needs. To find your county's Special Child Health Services Case Management Unit, contact 609-777-7778 or visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/sch/sccase.shtml>

Developed by The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School with the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network. May be reproduced or modified with permission. Please contact Carrie Coffield at carrie.coffield@rutgers.edu

 **Follow Up!** Keep in touch with your child's pediatrician, case manager, child care provider(s), and teacher(s).