



Resources for Families of Children & Adults with Special Needs

SteppingStones Recreation Center

(304) 983-7837 (STEP)

This packet is meant to serve as a guide for families to find providers and resources for their children and family members following a special needs diagnosis. We have done our best to get information from as many providers in our area as possible. The list may not include some of the providers in our area. We have also polled some of our families and some of these providers are just personal suggestions/opinions from their experiences and who they would recommend to others. We know our community has many wonderful providers, facilities, agencies, and businesses that are amazing with our population who may not have been included. If you know of any that you would recommend to another family please let us know. This list is fluid and will always be changing as we can add new resources for families.

Some commonly asked questions and advice from other parents and their experiences:

I recently received a diagnosis for my child, what are the next steps? What should I do first?

Breathe!!! It is overwhelming and you will not have all the answers you need in one day. Once you have processed the diagnosis do your research and dig deeper into the diagnosis and hopefully find a support group or network of individuals to give you guidance. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

If under 35 months of age register with Birth to Three, they are great with resources, guidance, appointments, therapies, etc. If over 3 years old get a good developmental specialist, get occupational and speech therapy as needed and get on ABA wait list if that's the route you want to go. Look at applying for SSI and/or Medicaid and Waiver. If school aged look at IEP and 504 plans for school and contact WVPTI (WV Parent Training & Information) for assistance if needed.

At what ages can my special needs child begin HeadStart/Pre-K?

Early Head Start-Early Head Start serves pregnant mothers and children ages birth to three. See attached brochure.

Head Start- This free program serves children ages 3 and 4 in school settings. Priority is given, according to a predefined Selection Criteria, to children age 4 by June 30 of the current school year. Children with identified delays, children who have transitioned from Early Head Start, and foster children may enroll at the age of 3. Although most families must meet income guidelines to enroll, over-income spaces are also available.

The Head Start staff provides home visits, program governance opportunities, fatherhood events, and extracurricular activities to families enrolled in the program. Transportation assistance is available to families attending program events and requirements.

The goal of Monongalia County Head Start is to provide exceptional services to young children to enhance their cognitive, social/emotional, and physical abilities. Additionally, understanding that parents are their child's first teacher, we provide resources for parents to enhance their relationships with their children.

Pre-K-Monongalia County Pre-K is a state-funded program overseen by Monongalia County Schools. This program serves children age 4 by June 30 of the current school year. Three-year-olds can also be placed in these classrooms if they have identified delays or if they have transitioned out of our Early Head Start program. There is no cost for this program and enrollment is not based on income. Transportation is offered within the home school area.

Monongalia County Extended School Year(ESY)- For students with disabilities, the IEP Team shall annually determine and document a student's need for ESY services. This is typically a couple weeks of school going half a day. Students entitled to ESY services are those who require special education and related services in excess of the regular school year to maintain identified critical skills as described in the current IEP. The IEP Team in making its determination of a student's need for ESY must review documentation that the student exhibits, or may exhibit: 1) Significant regression during an interruption in educational programming; 2) A limited ability to recoup, or relearn skills once programming has resumed; and 3) Regression/recoupment problem(s) that interfere with the maintenance of identified critical skills as described in the current IEP; and 4) Other factors that interfere with the maintenance of identified critical skills as described in the current IEP, such as predictive data; degree of progress; emerging skills and breakthrough opportunities; interfering behaviors; nature and/or severity of the disability; and special circumstances. The lack of clear evidence of such factors may not be used to deny a student of ESY services, if the IEP team determines the need for such services and includes ESY in the IEP. (WVDE Policy 2419, ESY, Determination of Services, p. 60)

What is the Birth to Three Program? The first few years of life are extremely important! This is a wonderful time to laugh, play, and learn with your child. You have come to WV Birth to Three with many questions and may be seeking support or guidance with your developing child. As a parent, you play a major role in the growth and development of your baby. Trust your instincts and feelings as you watch your child grow. You are responsible for guiding your child through these early years shaping them into the person that they will one day become. You as the parent are in control and get to choose from available providers who you want to come into your home. Virtual services are available also.

From the *initial referral to your child's exit from WVBTT* will help you with each step. Along the way WVBTT team members will coach you using the tools and resources that are available to meet your family's needs. Working together as a team, we will make sure that your child has a **good start!** If you or your child's physician have concerns about your child's development (ages birth-35 months) you or the physician can make a referral to WV Birth to Three (WVBTT) at 866-321-4728 or visit their website <https://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23>. See attached flyer.

What is the Waiver program and how do I get started?

What is the Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities Waiver (IDDW)?

The Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Waiver (IDDW) program is for children and adults with disabilities. The program provides services that help to teach, train, support, guide and assist members reach the highest level of independence possible in their lives.

The IDDW program, formerly MR/DD Waiver program, provides these services in homes and areas where the member lives, works, and shops instead of in Intermediate Care Facilities for

Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID). Find more information and to register go to [Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Waiver \(wv.gov\)](http://www.wv.gov) You may get denied your first time....keep applying, it is a process.

The IDDW is for people who:

- Are at least three years of age.
- Are West Virginia residents on the date the application form is turned in and can provide proof of residency at that time.
- Have a diagnosis of an intellectual disability and/or similar condition that is severe before age 22.
- Have difficulties in at least three of the following six areas:
 1. Self-care;
 2. Language and communication;
 3. Learning;
 4. The ability to move around freely;
 5. The ability to make good decisions for themselves

My child is going to be turning 18, what should I consider?

(Guardianship, Medical Power of Attorney/Conservatorship, etc.)

~If you choose Guardianship do it before they turn 18, this can take some time so start early

~If you are not on Waiver do so ASAP

~Look into if you would like to have your child stay in school until they are 21-keep in mind what will they have available if they come out of school at 18 and they have the rest of their lives to work

~If you choose to have your child graduate school at 18 plan ahead for what your child will be doing-day program, working, etc. This is a big transition in their lives and it sneaks up quickly.

Does my child have to graduate from high school at 18 years old? No. Read all the details in Policy 2419. Rights under Policy 2419 cease to apply at the end of the school year in which students turn 21 years of age. [Policy 2419 - West Virginia Department of Education \(wvde.us\)](http://wvde.us) **FAPE-**

Free and Appropriate Public Education-Who Is Entitled to FAPE? All qualified persons with disabilities within the jurisdiction of a school district are entitled to a free appropriate public education.

The ED Section 504 regulation defines a person with a disability as “any person who: (i) has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, (ii) has a record of such an impairment, or (iii) is regarded as having such an impairment.”

Students who stay until they are 21 will receive a modified diploma-Modified Diploma: Awarded when a student, with significant intellectual disabilities, satisfactorily completes modified graduation requirements. See attached page on Modified Diplomas at the end of the packet.

For elementary and secondary education programs, a qualified person with a disability is a person who is:

- of an age during which it is mandatory under state law to provide such services to persons with disabilities;
- of an age during which persons without disabilities are provided such services; or
- entitled to receive a free appropriate public education under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*.

In general, all school-age children who are individuals with disabilities as defined by Section 504 and *IDEA* are entitled to FAPE. Free Appropriate Public Education under Section 504

When and how do I apply for guardianship/conservatorship or medical power of attorney?

Why apply for guardianship of my own child before they turn 18?

A guardian/Conservator should be considered for a person with a disability who is unable to manage their own finances and continues to require help making important “Life Decisions” after turning 18 years of age. If that person only needs help making medical decisions consider a medical power of attorney. For more information go to Guardianship/Conservatorship-The West Virginia handbook for Guardian/Conservator or ask SteppingStones we have a copy of it as well

Guardian and Conservator Handbook (wvdhhr.org)

Medical Power of Attorney (MPOA) What is a MPOA? A medical power of attorney is a legal document, a type of advance directive, that allows you to name a person to make health care decisions for you if you are unable to make them for yourself. A MPOA only allows you to name a person to help with “medical” decision. This does not include financial decision or other life decisions.

IDEA-Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

To get special education services for a child, you have to follow a legal process. The most important law for this process is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

IDEA is the nation’s special education law. It gives rights and protections to kids with disabilities. It covers them from birth through high school graduation or age 21 (whichever comes first). Parents and legal guardians also have rights under the law. About IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Some advice from other parents who are trying to navigate what is best for their children:

- ~Do your research, get on every wait list and join every Facebook group you can.
- ~You have to fight and push for your child-no one else will.
- ~The sooner you start therapy and service the easier things will be for your child. Get in as much therapy as you can, but it is ok to take breaks from therapy if you need to as well.
- ~It's ok to get yourself a therapist as well! Talking to a therapist is a great way to process the myriad of thoughts and feelings you go through as a parent to a child with high needs.
- ~Set goals and expectations for your child just as if you would a "typical child"-push them, discipline them, expose them to situations and have goals for them. Want more, expect more our kids are capable of it even with their disability it just may look a little different.
- ~Talk to other parents, they are your best resource!!
- ~No two children are the same-do not compare your child or your child's diagnosis to another child with the same diagnosis.
- ~Keep trying! You're doing a good job. It is a lot of 1 step forward, 2 steps backwards but it will get easier.
- ~Take care of yourself first! You can't take care of your child if you don't take care of yourself first.
- ~It's okay to ask for help-build your support system as much as you can-friends, family, babysitter, neighbors, etc.
- ~If you need to wear earplugs in your own home, lock yourself in the bathroom for a minute, etc. to stop from being overstimulated so you can still care for your child, that's okay.
- ~Don't feel guilty for taking time for yourself!!

Here is a list of Resources, in no particular order, that we have been gathering to help parents utilize every opportunity possible. If you know of something not on this list please pass it on to us so we can add it!!

Physical/Occupational/ Speech Therapy/Eating Assistance Agencies

PlayWorks (Speech, Occupational & Physical)-Morgantown 304-292-0173 and Fairmont

Therapy Services-(speech, feeding & swallowing, occupational and physical)
304-599-9250 Morgantown, Bridgeport, Weston locations

WVU Medicine Neurodevelopmental Center (speech, feeding & swallowing, occupational & physical therapy) 304-598-4300 Morgantown, WV

Messenger Speech Therapy-Morgantown, WV (304) 278-4809

Lingo Speech Therapy Enterprises, LLC-Speech & Swallowing Clinic-Morgantown, WV
(304) 460-9054

Feeding and Swallowing Clinic-WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities-
ccorbett@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-4692

Cornerstone Pediatric Center (speech, occupational & physical therapy) 304-842-0044
Morgantown & Bridgeport WV

L'hommedieu Physical Therapy (physical therapy only) 304-276-8301 Morgantown

Country Road Physical Therapy (physical therapy only) Morgantown 304-322-4232; East & West Fairmont 304-363-0050; White Hall 304-816-3169

ABA Therapy

Key Learning Autism Center-3000 City View Drive, Morgantown 304-241-8401,
office@keylearningautismcenter.com

WVU Medicine Children's Neurodevelopment Center- Morgantown, WV 304-598-4300

ABC Consulting- 8278 Fairmont Rd, Suite 207, Morgantown WV 304-319-2282

Mountainside Behavior Analysis Services-Morgantown/Fairmont/Elkins area Facebook
mountainside-ABA-Morgantown, liz@mountainsideaba.com 304-801-3258

WHOLE Families-ABA Therapy, Psychologist, Early Intervention-Morgantown, WV

WHOLEFamiliesWV@gmail.com 304-906-8087, 412-607-4142

Achieving True Self- support@achievingtrueself.com 866-287-2036 Morgantown, WV

Behavioral Therapy/Psychological Assessment & Therapy Providers

Chestnut Ridge Center (pediatric psychiatry & psychotherapy) Morgantown 304-598-6400

Brighter Pathways, Inc. (assessment & psychotherapy) Fairmont , WV 304-657-4172

Neuropsychology Group of WV (neuropsychology evaluation) Morgantown 304-554-0504

Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center-(trauma focused psychotherapy)
Morgantown 304-598-0344

Quinn Curtis Center (assessment & psychotherapy) Morgantown 304-293-1824 fees for services are on a sliding scale. Income based

Mountaineer Psychological Services(assessment & psychotherapy) Morgantown & Bridgeport
304-241-1766

Resilient Kids (psychotherapy) Morgantown 304-381-2211

Children In Balance (psychotherapy, including PCIT) Morgantown 304-241-1097; Canonsburg,
PA 724-260-5228

Community Care of WV (pediatric psychiatry & psychotherapy, including PCIT) Bridgeport
304-848-5770

Support Groups

Facebook-Autism Support, Morgantown, WV

Therapy Services-Autism Parent Support Group-
Lindsey Elliott- l.elliott@therapyservicesllc.com

Corridor Chapter of AS-WV on Facebook or email: corridorchapterwv@gmail.com

The West Virginia Parent Training and Information, Inc. (WVPTI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit parent organization committed to improving the lives and education of ALL children through a special emphasis on children and youth with all disabilities and special healthcare needs. WVPTI is the state's designated Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) and receives funding from the federal Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. We serve parents and families of a child or youth from birth to age twenty-six with special needs.

WVPTI, Inc. affirms the right of all individuals, from all backgrounds and cultures, with or without disabilities, to appropriate education and other needed services.

Our mission is to empower families as advocates and partners in improving education, health, and transition outcomes for their children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs with a commitment to diversity and equity. Visit their website at wvpti-inc.org

Dentists recommended by Other parents

Pediatric Dentists that can offer dental exams and procedures with sedation, if needed, include:

- WVU School of Dentistry, Pediatric Dentistry Clinic; Morgantown, WV. Accepts WV Medicaid & United Concordia. Dental Insurance. Fees are at a reduced rate in the student clinic, and payment options are available for patients without insurance. Morgantown, WV (304) 293-0401.
- Pediatric and Teenage Dentistry of Morgantown; Morgantown, WV. Accepts most private insurances. Morgantown, WV (304) 598-5000.
- Dr. Erin Branham, DDS; Parkersburg, WV. Accepts WV Medicaid & other private insurances. Parkersburg, WV (304) 485- 7336.

Dr. Rominger-Rominger Dentistry- Saltwell, WV 304-842-2375

Dr. Rogers-Dental Hygienist at MCHD Dentistry-Morgantown Health Department 304-598-5108
Dr. Parks-totsandteensdentistry.com Morgantown, WV 304-777-4114
Dr. Day-Pediatric & Teen Dentistry Morgantown 599-5000
Mace Dentistry- Morgantown 304-241-4992

Doctors recommended by other parents:

Dr. Bradford-Pediatric Only-Ophthalmology at WVU Eye Institute 855-WVU-CARE
Dr. Peppers-Immunology/Allergy-WVU Medicine 304-594-1313
Dr. Tomboc, Dr. Meyer, Dr. Paul-Oncology/Hematology-WVU Cancer Institute 304-285-7101
Dr. Rosen-Pediatric Only-Rheumatology WVU Medicine University Town Center 304-598-4835
Dr. Jones-Pediatric Only-Endocrinology 304-598-4835
Dr. Lindsey-Neurology/Developmental Pediatrician 855-988-2273
Dr. Le Ann Accord- at Cardinal-Pediatrician 304-599-8000
Neuro Evaluations-Neuropsychology group of WV
Dr. Mary Russell-WVU Orthopedics 304-285-7101
Dr. Carpenter-Fairmont Eye Center-Optometrist 304-366-4721
Dr. Audra Rouster-WVU Gastrointestinal 304-293-1017
Dr. Bryce Harvey-WVU Hospitals 304-293-6635
Cardinal Pediatrics-Patti Malone, Dr. Pinar & Dr. Lambert 304-599-8000
Dr. Radine Gibson-Cheat Lake Physicians 304-285-7101

Counselors recommended by other parents

Quinn Curtis Center- Life Science Buildings, 53 Campus Drive P.O. Box 6040 Morgantown, WV, 26506-6040 Phone: (304) 293-1824 Email: QCC@mail.wvu.edu
Dr. Cassie Maxwell, Children in Balance Phycologist
Adrienne Epley-Brown, Mind Body Wellness 295 High St. Morgantown, 304-363-4265

Haircuts recommended by parents-

Sherry at AZK Hair-Morgantown 304-241-1144
McKinsey Marrara-The Royal Treatment-Morgantown 304-241-1592

Recommendations for help with IEP's and school system:

WVPIT- www.wvpti-inc.org
Sara Beth Chambers-Special Education Advocate-304-590-8578
Community Autism Resource & Education System (CARES)- (304) 935-0410

Legal Aid FAST(family support, advocacy and Training)- 866-255-4370 legalaidwv.org

Mountain State Justice- (304) 326-0188 mountainstatejustice.org

Astrive Advocacy- astrive.org

Miscellaneous:

Child & Family Support- Can apply for up to \$1000 to purchase something your child needs that insurance won't cover (wagon, fence, sensory equipment, etc). Look on the WVDHHR website for county contact information. <http://wvfrn.org/counties/>.

Launch Pad-has Sensitive Sensory hours every first Monday of the month from 3:00pm-7:00pm in Morgantown, WV 304-322-2959

Krepps Sensitive Swim Hours- Check website for this seasons days and times

Community Autism Resource & Education Systems-CARES on Facebook

Hovatters Zoo does a Sensory Night a few times a year-follow their Facebook page for details

Spruce Street Play Group-Spruce.st.playgroup@gmail.com offers enrichment, playdates, story time and fun for families with infants and toddlers. Also check out their Facebook page

Morgantown Parents Place- Parents' Place is a completely parent-run, non-profit organization that provides educational programming and support to preschool children ages one to five, and their parents. Located in Morgantown, WV, we operate out of the Spruce Street Church as of September, 2023 (Parents' Place is a non-denominational organization, however, and is not affiliated with the church). Currently, around 40 families participate in our program.

We operate Tuesday through Thursday, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Members attend a minimum of one day per week, a maximum of two. Unlike traditional drop-off preschools or daycares, while our children attend "class" we congregate in the Parents Room.
parentsplace.morgantown@gmail.com

WVU Therapy Dogs- Hearts of Gold-morgantownheartsofgold@gmail.com (304) 293-6008 Rob Hardford

Swim Diapers & Adaptive Equipment, Sensory Friendly Clothing- Amazon, especialneeds.com, swimoutlet.com, rehabmart.com, theraquatics.com, funandfunction.com, taylorbugkisses.com, Target.com and many more sites.

Autism ADHD Podcast on Apple Podcast

Sweetbabyo.com-follow one parent's journey thru Autism with their child

Sports Programs/Recreation Programs/Social Activities

SteppingStones- SteppingStones does year round recreation and social activities for children and adults ages 3-100 years old with a cognitive disability. After a tour fo the facility and a completed application you will receive a calendar that goes out every 2 months with all of our upcoming programs we offer. Programs include LIFE Skills, parties, basketball, Miracle League Baseball, golf, TOPsoccer, social events, cooking and art classes, swim classes, Open swim times in the pools, Summer Camp, Kid's On Ice Program and much more. SteppingStones is located at 400 Mylan Park Lane, Morgantown, WV 304-983-7837.

Miracle League Baseball of Morgantown, WV- Miracle League removes barriers that can keep people with disabilities from enjoying baseball, America's favorite pastime. Miracle League teams play on a custom-designed, rubberized turf field that accommodates wheelchairs and other assistive devices while helping to prevent falls and injuries.

Miracle League is more than playing a game. It helps our athletes make new friends, and build self-esteem. Athletes enjoy the team camaraderie and excitement that builds during each and every game. The Miracle League of Morgantown, WV is run by SteppingStones. To Qualify you must be 4-100 years old with a cognitive disability. Participants come from many communities, near and far, so if you are willing to travel we would love to have you. We have 5 different leagues to fit everyone's ability level-Tee Ball, Minor League, Major League, Major League Non Competitive and Professional. To get registered please call the SteppingStones office at (304)983-STEP(7837). Deadline for application and fees to be turned in is March 31st by 4:00pm. Season runs April-early July.

DAC Disability Action Center-Fairmont 304-366-3213 The DAC currently serves over 450 children and adults with disabilities and their families in North Central WV including Marion, Monongalia, Harrison, Taylor, and Barbour counties. Clients range in age from 10 to 60+ with a wide range of physical, intellectual, and sensory challenges. The Disability Action Center is a comprehensive education, training, and enrichment center for individuals with disabilities and their families: a place for individuals of all abilities to learn, train, work, recreate, advocate, and be supported in setting and reaching life goals.

Special Olympics of WV- Special Olympics West Virginia provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults ages 8 & Up 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. www.sowv.org 304-345-9310 You can call the Charleston office to get any information and contacts for your local county directors.

Special Olympics Monongalia County-304-983-7837 The office is based out of SteppingStones and the County Director is Lyndsay Ramsey- lyndsay.ramsey@k12.wv.us

Special Olympics Marion County-Cari Shepard- carishepardmcsso@outlook.com

Special Olympics Harrison County-Heather Walls- harrcospecialolympics@gmail.com

Special Olympics Preston County-Nona Miller- montenona4@gmail.com

Challenger League Baseball-Bridgeport, WV is sponsored by Bridgeport Physical Therapy and Mike Martin. It is a baseball league for special needs children ages 5-18 years old. For more information call 304-842-4513.

Miracle League Baseball of Wheeling- The Miracle League of the Ohio Valley is a community-based sports program for children and adults with all types of mental and physical disabilities. We provide everyone of mental or physical handicap the opportunity to play baseball and other activities. info@wheelingymca.org For more information call the YMCA at 304-242-8086.

Saddles & Smiles- We are located in Davis, WV and our Mission is to provide equine assisted learning experiences for children, teens, and young adults living with a variety of challenges so that each participant can reach his or her highest potential. (304) 642-9070- saddlesandsmiles.org

On Eagles' Wings Therapeutic Horsemanship- Our mission is to provide a safe environment for individuals with disabilities, enabling them to enrich and enhance their lives through equine assisted activities and therapies. Our participants include children and adults with physical, cognitive, emotional, and social disabilities and challenges. 371 Opekiska Ridge Rd. Fairmont, WV 26554 304-368-1221 oneagleswingswva@gmail.com

Challenged Athletes of WV- Snowshoe, WV-Challenged Athletes of West Virginia's mission is to "improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities through outdoor sports and recreation." Challenged Athletes operates the adaptive skiing program at Snowshoe Mountain Resort, teaching over 400 lessons annually to children and adults with disabilities, and provides specialized ski and snowboard equipment to program participants at no cost. They also offer Cycling, Alpine/Down Hill Skiing and Snowboarding. 304-572-6708 or cwoody@snowshoemountain.com

Employment Opportunities and After High School Opportunities

WVU Country Roads Program Center for Excellence in Disabilities- An on campus designed program for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities to simulate a college experience-Kayla Richard-countryroads@hsc.wvu.edu

Project SEARCH at WVU Hospitals- Project SEARCH is an internship experience for high school seniors or recently graduated students with mild and moderate special needs. Once accepted into the program, student interns report to Ruby Memorial Hospital instead of their home school district classroom for the entire school year. Student interns will rotate through several job roles at the WVU Hospitals. Project SEARCH serves as the student interns' capstone educational experience and often leads to employment once the internships are complete.

Project SEARCH is coordinated and hosted by WVU Medicine and supported by the West Virginia Department of Education. Together, in partnership with other community organizations, they will create a one-year immersion experience that combines classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations. For more information about Project SEARCH, including how to apply or how to participate in the open house, contact Nick Lafferty, Project SEARCH instructor, at steven.lafferty@wvumedicine.org.

In addition to the application, interested students must pass a skills assessment evaluation and be interviewed as part of the acceptance process.

PACE Enterprises helps adults with disabilities obtain meaningful employment. When an individual with a disability comes to PACE, they are evaluated and counseled to determine their skills and career goals. Then, training is provided to polish the individual's talents and overcome shortcomings. Finally, the individual is either introduced to a local employer with whom they have forged a long-term relationship with or is employed in one of PACE's business endeavors. Employment opportunities are available in Morgantown, Fairmont, Grafton, and Charleston, WV. For more information visit <http://paceenterprises.org> or call (304) 983-7223.

WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (DHHR):

WHAT does DRS do?

DRS provides vocational services that help individuals with disabilities prepare for, obtain, regain, maintain or advance in employment. Through DRS' statewide field offices, vocational rehabilitation counselors help consumers assess interests and abilities, as well as explore career options to develop individualized employment plans that will empower each person to meet his or her unique employment goals. <https://wvdrs.org/>

Preston County Workshop-Reedsville, WV 304-864-6446, info@pcsworkshop.com

The Op Shop-Fairmont, WV The Op Shop, Inc. is a not for profit community rehabilitation program that creates opportunities in sheltered or competitive employment for adults with disabilities. In conjunction with DRS, The Op Shop assesses clients who need a varying degree of living skills training to successfully live on their own. We utilize the Daniel Memorial Independent Living Skills Scale to understand what skills each individual needs. <https://theopshopwv.com/>

Social Activities

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Music Therapy/Dance

Music Therapy -CED-Morgantown 304-293-4692

Milestones & Music-Patricia Allison-140 Spring Hills Road, Grafton WV
milestonesandmusicmtwv@gmail.com 304-676-8864, They have a week long summer camp in Morgantown, WV.

Umbrella Arts-508 Ashbrooke Square, Morgantown [-info@umbrella-arts.com](mailto:info@umbrella-arts.com)

Pizzaz Dance Academy-Autism in Motion Dance Classes-pdamorgantown.com 304-292-9671

Fawley Music Morgantown occasionally has music instructors-304-292-3351

Other Agencies

CCIL- Coordinating Council for Independent Living is one of the largest case management agencies in the state of West Virginia, with 8 offices covering all 55 counties in West Virginia. It is staffed by Registered Nurses, Licensed Social Workers, Behavioral Support, Administrators, and support staff. The agency provides service program maintenance and coordination to clients statewide and has done so for over 30 years. Check our the website to find your local office and contact info.

REM-Founded in 1988, REM West Virginia is **a leading home- and community-based health and human services provider**. We offer innovative programs and services to youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other complex challenges. Check our the website to find your local office and contact info. www.remwestvirginia.com 304-292-2108

Rescare- Helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live their best lives. For more than 40 years, ResCare Community Living has provided trusted community living services that help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities enjoy greater quality of life in their own home or in home-like environments.. Check our the website to find your local office and contact info.

LIVE Ability- You can help West Virginians with disabilities achieve the freedom that all Mountaineers deserve. LiveAbility provides assistance in the form of assistive technology, accessibility items in the home, skills training, and more! <https://liveabilitywv.org/>

Autism Society of WV-See Attached flyer

Autismlink.com-resources nationally

WVU Neuro Development Center Morgantown, WV Treatments and Services-We provide each child with comprehensive evaluation and follow-up care while coordinating their treatment with a variety of WVU Medicine neurodevelopmental experts. Our therapy services for children and their families include:

- Applied behavior analysis
- Assistive technology training
- Family resource counseling
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Speech language therapy

WV Resources for Families

Education Resources

WV Birth to Three is a statewide system of services and support for families with infants and toddlers ages birth through 35 months who have developmental delays or are at risk of developmental delays. Call (800) 642-8522 or (304) 558-5388 to request an evaluation. See attached flyer.

Social Security Administration – Benefits for Children with Disabilities

Family Resource Center- West Virginia's Family Support Centers (formerly Family Resource Centers or FRCs) are warm and welcoming places in the community where any family member with children up to age 18 or pregnant families can go, not only in times of need, but as a regular part of day-to-day life. Family Support Centers (FSC) offer parent education classes, child development activities, parent-to-parent support groups, after school and academic enrichment, General Educational Development (GED) and literacy instruction, health information, and referrals to programs, activities and services in the community. Each FSC's specific services are designed in accordance with the needs of the community. FSC services are voluntary and available to all interested families. <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bfa/communityresources/Pages/Family-Support-Centers.aspx>

Preschool Special Education Programming is offered by each county's school system in accordance with federal and state guidelines to eligible children ages three to five who have developmental delays or disabilities that qualify them for services. For additional information, contact your county's special education office or the WV Department of Special Education in Charleston at 1-800-642-8541.

West Virginia Parent Training Information Center (WVPTI) is an advocacy and training services group staffed by parents who have children with special needs. They provide information to families and professionals who work with children who have disabilities. WVPTI has fact sheets and other information on state and federal special education law, the IEP process, assistive technology, and inclusion. They can be reached by calling 1-800-281-1436, and their services are free of charge. They have advocates that can help with IEPs.

Disability Rights of West Virginia is a state designated protection and advocacy program for West Virginians with disabilities. DRWV provides consultation and services on human and legal rights. They also provide a free Parents Guide to Special Education Services. For more information visit www.drofww.org or call (304) 346-0847.

Family and Community Support Resources

The WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities is a helpful resource for families who are seeking services related to ASD and other disabilities. They are currently providing social skills groups, parent support groups, group parent/teacher trainings, and 1:1 individualized training. No diagnosis is required to receive these services. They can be contacted at (304) 293-4692. You can also visit www.cedwvu.org.

The West Virginia Autism Training Center is also a helpful resource for families in the state who need recommendations and referral sources. It also offers a “futures program” or Positive Behavior Support program that develops action plans to help ensure productive futures for children and adults on the autism spectrum. They can be reached at 1-800-344-5115. The West Virginia Autism Training Center website (www.marshall.edu/atc) also offers a variety of helpful resources, such as the 2019 Autism Awareness Toolkit that services as a Resource Guide for West Virginia Schools.

The Autism Training Center conducts training sessions on a number of topics across the state. Training sessions are open to clients of ATC and their families, school personnel, or other interested parties, and are often free of charge. Registration is required for some training sessions so contact ATC at 304-696-2332 or email atc@marshall.edu to get more information. To see if there is additional information about an event check the following page – <http://www.marshall.edu/atc/category/trainings/>

WV Developmental Disabilities Council provides resources and access to trainings which support innovative practices that promote the independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and their communities. Christy Black is their resource specialist. You can reach them at 304-558-0416 or visit www.ddc.wv.gov.

Waiver, Insurance, and Financial Support Programs

Social Security Disability (SSI) is based on both disability and income eligibility for children with special health care needs. If children qualify, they are eligible for a WV Medical Card to help cover expenses and cost of care, in addition to need-based funding from the state. To apply, contact your local DHHR. *If denied for SSI, request a formal denial letter and apply for the CDCSP Program.*

Children with Disabilities Community Service Program (CDCSP) is an optional Medicaid program that allows children with disabilities to receive medical assistance. Children must qualify to receive the level of care provided in a medical institution, though they do not need to be receiving services from a medical institution. Only the child's income and assets are considered, providing all other eligibility criteria are met. Children receive a West Virginia Medicaid card through this program. For more information, visit www.pcasolutions.com or call (304) 776-7230.

Title 19 Home and Community Based Waiver (I/DD Waiver) is run through APS Healthcare. This program is designated for individuals age 3 and up. The IDD Waiver provides a lifetime medical card and a host of other services for children with lifelong disabilities. These services may include respite care, paid transportation, and therapeutic services. To apply, call 1-866-385-8920.

West Virginia Health Insurance Premium Payment (WV HIPP) is a state-funded program for qualifying Medicaid recipients and their families who have access to health insurance that is either self-funded, available through a job, or COBRA. If an applicant qualifies, the state will pay the monthly cost of the premium for a health insurance policy that covers the policyholder and their Medicaid dependent(s). Medicaid may also pay out-of-pocket medical expenses when the HIPP member sees a qualifying physician. For more information, visit www.mywvhipp.com or call 1-855-699-8447.

WV ABLE is a specialized savings account for individuals with disabilities. It allows families to save money for their child without jeopardizing their eligibility for SSI/Medicaid. Children can have over \$2,000 in financial resources in their ABLE account while still receiving government disability benefits. For more information call (304) 340-5050 or visit <https://wvable.com/>.

Children with Special Health Care Needs Program (CSHCN) provides care coordination, assistance in navigating DHHR & community resources, and provides financial assistance with medical foods. CSHCN is intended for children and youth with certain chronic, debilitating conditions by providing specialized medical care and care coordination services who meet financial and medical eligibility criteria. For more information visit <https://www.wvdhhr.org/cshcn/> or call 1-800-642-9704.

State Initiatives to Support Families

Healthy Grandfamilies is a free initiative led by West Virginia State University to provide information and resources to grandparents who are raising one or more grandchildren. The program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Healthy Grandfamilies provides information about parenting in the 21st century, changing family dynamics, technology and social media, nutrition, legal issues, healthcare, stress management, negotiating the public school system, locating community resources, advocacy, and other valuable topics and resources. More information can be found at <http://healthygrandparents.com>.

FMRS Health Systems, Inc. provides behavioral health services for Fayette, Monroe, Raleigh, and Summers Counties. They provide a variety of services including Parent Peer Support specialists to help children and families navigate services and ensure they receive the most appropriate level of care. Parent Peer Support is typically used when a family has multiple needs due to caring for a child with severe behavioral or developmental problems. The Parent Peer Support specialist can assist the child and their family in navigating complex systems by providing advocacy and linkage/referral to community resources. The Parent Peer Support specialist facilitates parent support groups and meets one on one with families throughout the region. FMRS Health Systems, Inc. also provide Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Adolescent Substance Abuse Services, Children's Mobile Crisis Response, Children's Wraparound, School-Based Mental Health Services, Regional Youth Support, and Life Space Crisis Intervention. FMRS Health Systems, Inc. accept children and youth ages 3+ regardless of insurance or ability to pay. For more information visit www.fmrs.org/childrens-services or call the closest office:

Fayetteville, WV (304) 574-2100

Beckley, WV (304) 256-7100

Hinton, WV (304) 466-3899

Union, WV (304) 772-5452

Children's Mobile Crisis Response Center (CMRC) will send a behavioral health crisis responder to the home or other location in the community 24/7 for children ages 0-21 years. Their goal is to respond within 1 hour or less following a crisis call. The CMRC serves the following WV counties: Barbour, Beckley (or within a 1-hour drive from Beckley, WV), Braxton, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Raleigh, Randolph,

Taylor, Tucker, and Upshur. For pre-enrollment through FMRS for Beckley or Raleigh counties, call (304) 256-7100 and ask for a member of the Children's Mobile Crisis Response team. For pre-enrollment through United Summit Center for Barbour, Braxton, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Upshur counties, call (844) WV-KIDS-1 and ask for a member of Children's Mobile Crisis Response team.

WV Children's Mental Health Wraparound Project provides a comprehensive, holistic, youth and family-driven way of responding when children or youth experience serious mental health or behavior challenges. Wraparound puts the child or youth and family at the center. With support from a team of professionals and natural supports, the family's ideas and perspectives about what they need and what will be helpful drive all of the work in Wraparound. Wraparound services children and families ages 0-21 years with a mental health diagnosis or an intellectual or developmental disability combined with serious behavioral or mental health concerns that are affecting the child or youth at home, school, or in the community and putting him or her at risk of out-of-home placement or getting discharged from placement. The young person and their family work with a Wraparound facilitator to build their Wraparound team, which can include the family's friends and people from the wider community, as well as providers of services and supports. Contact Tahnee Bryant of the WV Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities at (304) 356-4820 or Tahnee.I.Bryant@wv.gov.

Resilience for Appalachia (RAPP) – Youth Overcoming Trauma Project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and is a collaboration between FMRS Health Systems, Inc., Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center, and Seneca Health Services, Inc. The primary goal of RAPP is to bring evidenced-based, trauma-informed treatment to the children of Southern West Virginia. Therapists across three comprehensive agencies are trained in evidenced-based treatment models to better serve our region, including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). RAPP is working to change how all child-serving agencies approach children and families by facilitating trauma informed care training throughout the region. Call Leah Kidd, RAPP coordinator at (888) 811-1844 to find the therapist closest to you.

Additional Resources

ModivCare (formerly LogistiCare) provides non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) for eligible WV Medicaid Members to travel to and from their Medicaid covered healthcare services. NEMT services include gas mileage reimbursement, passes for fixed route buses, and transportation supplied by private transportation providers. Trip requests require 5 business days' notice and transportation will only be provided to and from your address on record with WV Medicaid. For more information visit <http://www.logisticarewv.net/Members/Overview> or call 844-549-8353.

WVU College of Law Child and Family Law Clinic provides legal assistance on a sliding fee scale to qualified children and families. They can assist with family law (i.e., matters of domestic violence, protection orders, adoption, custody, and guardianship matters), education law (i.e., special education and early intervention advocacy), housing (i.e., landlord-tenant issues, public housing problems), trust and estate law (i.e., special needs trusts and wills), and other legal issues that impact children and families. They primarily service Monongalia, Marion, Preston, Taylor, Barbour, Harrison, Randolph, Doddridge, Lewis, and Ritchie counties. For information, call (304) 293-6808.

Diapers and Pull-ups can be free of charge through the WV Medical Card for children age 3 and up. A prescription from the child's primary care doctor indicating "urinary incontinence" is required. Families then take their child's medical card and the prescription to any local home health care supply company. For example, one company that ships statewide is Family Medical Supply, 1 (800) 374-3795.

Feeding and Swallowing Clinic at WVUCED serves patients ages 0-18 to provide multidisciplinary feeding evaluations, follow-up treatment sessions, written treatment plans, and collaboration with your child's current therapy and/or medical team. To begin the process, caregivers need to complete a feeding history questionnaire and get a medical release form signed by their child's primary care doctor (these forms are available on their website). Completed forms must be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to the clinic first in order to schedule an appointment.

For more information on their services and to download the feeding history and medical release forms, please visit their web site: <https://feeding.cedwvu.org/>
Contact information: Phone: (304) 293-4692, ext 0; Fax: 304-293-7492 ; E-mail: cedclinics@hsc.wvu.edu

Camp Gizmo is a five day, hands-on camp where parents, professionals, and students learn how assistive technology can help young children (birth – 8 years) with significant and multiple developmental needs. It is typically held in July on the campus of the WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, WV. For more information, visit http://www.wvearlychildhood.org/Camp_Gizmo.html

Best Buddies creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Best Buddies gives people with special abilities a chance to make friends, speak up, and be heard and advocate for themselves and others within their community. They also have an e-Buddies program designed to develop friendships through virtual events for anyone age 13 and older. For more information, visit <https://www.bestbuddies.org/westvirginia/>.

Project Life Saver is a national search and rescue system using radio transmitters and electronic tracking equipment. This transmitter bracelet is worn by individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other cognitive disabilities. Because the equipment is paid for through donations, the monthly maintenance cost to the client is \$10.00 per month. For more information, please contact Monongalia Sheriff's Office, Deputy A.D. Bise at (304) 291-7260 or Russell Kirk (304) 291-7260 or check out their website www.monsheriff.com/lifesaver. Other counties have access to this program as well. To search for the closest agency in your county, please visit <https://projectlifesaver.org/about-us/where-we-are/> and type in your zip code.

Autism Care Today is an organization that has grants for families and will fund safety fencing for families of children with Autism. <https://www.act-today.org/apply-for-grant/>

Mountain State Parent Child Adolescent Network- MSP-CAN supports parents and caregivers of children and youth who have emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges. <https://www.msp-can.org/>

Autism Care Today is an organization that has grants for families and will fund safety fencing for families of children with Autism. <https://www.act-today.org/apply-for-grant/>

Variety - The Children's Charity provides life-changing mobility and communication equipment to children with disabilities. Their programs are designed to empower children, so they may gain mobility, confidence, independence, and the chance to have typical childhood experiences. They have three programs - My Bike (adaptive bikes), My Stroller (adaptive strollers) and My Voice (communication devices). They are only serving Pa counties right now. <https://www.varietypittsburgh.org/> See attached flyer.

Around the area info:

Central

- Rebecka Campbell, M.S., BCBA provides ABA Therapy services, 681-205-1769, Sutton, WV
- Therapy Services provides speech, occupational, and physical therapy services, (304) 517-1560, Weston, WV
- Community Care of West Virginia provides treatment for behavioral and mental health problems (including PCIT), (304) 269-9510, Weston, WV
- Minnie Hamilton Health System provides speech, occupational, and physical therapy services, as well as mental health services for children ages 3 and up, (304) 354-5981, Grantsville, WV
- Country Roads Physical Therapy provides pediatric physical therapy, (304) 472-8510, Buckhannon, WV

Mid-Central West

- The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley, (304) 422-3151, christina.smith@arcwd.org, Parkersburg, WV
- Mountain River Physical Therapy offers speech, occupational, and physical therapies, (304) 917-3649, Parkersburg, WV
- Autism & Behavioral Consultants, Inc. Offers Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy; Phone: (304) 422-9655; E-mail: abc.inc@abcwvva.com; Parkersburg, WV
- The Counseling and Wellness Center, 304-422-7300, Parkersburg, WV and Belpre, OH
- Harmony Mental Health, 304-917-4741, Parkersburg, WV
- The Counseling House, 04-865-5444, Parkersburg, WV
- Spaulding Psychological Services, 304-861-5184, Parkersburg, WV

Mid-Central East

- WV Autism Supportive Center; Includes Mountainside ABA and holistic services, (304) 801-3258, Elkins, WV
- Davis Medical Center Speech and Swallowing Center, (304) 637-3520, Elkins, WV
- Scottish Rite Children's Speech Language Disorders Clinic at Grant Memorial Hospital, (304) 759-5200, Petersburg, WV

Northern Pan Handle

Psychological Assessment, Psychiatry, and Therapy Providers:

- The Autism Clinic at Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Dr. Nihit Gupta (psychiatry), 304-221-3012, Glen Dale, WV
- Pediatric Counseling Services, (412) 388-0880, Pittsburgh, PA
- AIBDT Psychological Services, (412) 329-7778, Coraopolis, McKees Rocks, and Pittsburgh, PA
- Park Valley Behavioral Health Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, (304) 218-2023, Wheeling, WV

ABA Providers:

- Augusta Levy Learning Center, (304) 242-6722 or augustalevy.org, Wheeling, WV
- Wheeling Hospital's Center for Pediatrics, (304) 243-3000, Wheeling, WV
- Kendall Behavioral Solutions, LLC, (740) 359-6783, www.kbsaba.com, Martins Ferry, OH

Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapy Providers:

- Easterseals Rehabilitation Center provides pediatric therapy services, (304) 242-1390, Wheeling, WV

- Wheeling Hospital provides pediatric speech and physical therapies, (304) 243-3000, Wheeling, WV
- Weirton Pediatric Rehabilitation (Weirton Medical Center) provides pediatric speech, occupational, and physical therapy services, (304) 797-6104, Weirton, WV
- Country Roads Physical Therapy provides pediatric physical therapy services (304) 905-8140; Wheeling, WV

Pennsylvania Resources for Families

Autism Services, Education, Resources, and Training Collaborative (ASERT) is a statewide initiative that aims to provide streamlined access to information for Pennsylvanians living with Autism. They provide information related to education supports, behavior supports, and community resources, among others. For more information, visit <https://paautism.org>.

The **Arc of Pennsylvania** has 33 local chapters and represents over 8,000 members. Our state office coordinates strategic, grassroots advocacy efforts; provides policy analysis and trainings, and implements the statewide Include Me and the Arc Discovery Employment Transitions (ADEPT) programs that serve children and adults. The Arc of Pennsylvania focuses on systems advocacy and governmental affairs, demonstrating leadership and guidance among all disability organizations in Pennsylvania. Our local chapters of The Arc provide a variety of critical services, including advocacy services, Early Intervention, residential and day supports, home-care assistance, and job training. To learn more and find your local chapter, visit <https://thearcpa.org/>.

Include Me is a new model for the inclusive education and gaining meaningful employment for Pennsylvania's students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of Pennsylvania and Include Me believes all individuals with significant impact of developmental and intellectual disability deserve equal educational and competitive employment rights. Our mission, build and strengthen the inclusive education capacity for all public-school students, and discover meaningful employment opportunities meeting Pennsylvania employee and employer needs. Include Me strives to ensure all impacted students have equal access to all aspects of life and the community throughout their lifespan. The mission of the Include Me Program is to provide on-site, intensive training and technical assistance to school districts, teachers, and families to increase their capacity to educate students with significant disabilities in general education classes and typical preschool settings. For more information; please call (717) 234-2621 or visit <https://includemepa.org/who-we-are/>.

Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) support children, youth, and young adults with mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs. IBHS is run through the Department of Human Services. IBHS offers a wide array of services that meet the needs of these individuals in their homes, schools, and communities. IBHS has three categories of service: 1) Individual services which provide services to one child; 2) Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) which is a specific behavioral approach to services; and 3) Group services which are most often provided to multiple children at a specific place. Evidence-based treatment (EBT) can be delivered through individual services, ABA services, and group services. For more information, visit <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/HealthChoices/HC-Providers/Pages/BHProvider-IBHS.aspx> or call 412-565-5226 (Western Field Office, Rich Latsko, rlatsko@pa.gov).

State Wide Resources

Multiple Services

- **WHOLE Families PLLC** Diagnosis, Behavior Therapy, Advocacy Joseph Scotti PhD, BCBA & Claudia Neely, MA, LPC, BCBA
Phone: (304)-906-9087, (412)-607-4142
Email: WHOLEfamiliesWV@gmail.com
Website: <http://wholefamilieswv.com/>
- **WV Birth to 3** Services & Support for families with infants and toddlers who have/are at risk for developmental delays
Phone: 1(800)-624-8522 or (304)-558-5388
- **Division of Rehabilitation Services** Phone: 1(800)-642-8207
Website: <https://wvdrs.org/>

School Services

- **School Education Programming** Offered by each county's school system in accordance with federal and state guidelines to eligible children who have developmental delays or disabilities that qualify them for services. Phone: Contact your county's special education office OR WV Department of Special Education: 1(800)-642-8541
- **The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** Designed to protect the rights of children with disabilities and their parents. Your child has the right to an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Phone: Contact your local school system for more information OR see the ADVOCATES section of this manual
- **Services in West Virginia Schools Guidelines for Best Practice**
The purpose of this guidance document is to:
 1. Provide education related information about autism spectrum disorders
 2. Assist Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams, including parents, develop researched based educational programs for children and youth who qualify for special education services under the autism disability category.

Contact an Advocate

- **Family to Family Health Information Center** Provides access to providers and resources within West Virginia. Goal is to promote optimal health for children and adults with special health care needs by helping families, health professionals, and communities partner in facilitating access to cost-effective, quality care.
Phone: 304-293-4692 Email: F2FHIC@hsc.wvu.edu
- **West Virginia Parent Training and Information, Inc.** Provides education and training services on special education policies, preparing for Individual Education

Planning (IEP) meetings, and working collaboratively with school personnel. Phone: **(304)-472-5697** OR **1(800)-281-1436**

Website: www.wvpti-inc.org

- **WVU College of Law Child and Family Law Clinic** Provides legal assistance on a sliding fee scale to qualified children and families. They can assist with:
 1. Family Law – matters of domestic violence, protection orders, adoption, custody, and guardianship matters
 2. Education Law – special education and early intervention advocacy
 3. Housing – landlord-tenant issues, public housing problems
 4. Trust and Estate Law – special needs trusts and wills

And other legal issues that impact children and families Primarily service Monongalia, Marion, Preston, Taylor, Barbour, Harrison, Randolph, Doddridge, Lewis, and Ritchie counties. Phone: **(304)-293-6808**

- **Disability Rights of West Virginia** Private non-profit agency dedicated to protecting and advocating for the legal rights of West Virginians with disabilities
Phone: **1(800)-950-5250**
Website: <https://www.drofww.org/autism>
- **WHOLE Families PLLC** Joseph Scotti PhD, BCBA & Claudia Neely, MA, LPC, BCBA
Phone: **(304)-906-9087, (412)-607-4142**
Email: WHOLEfamiliesWV@gmail.com
Website: <http://wholefamilieswv.com/>

Health Care Assistance

- **Contact Insurance** Each insurance provider covers therapy services (ABA, ST, OT, PT, etc.) differently. Contact your Insurance provider to ensure coverage and benefits. If questions or concerns arise, discuss these with the therapy provider.
- **Apply for SSI**
Social Security Disability (SSI):
Based on both disability and income eligibility for children with special health care needs. If children qualify, they are eligible for a WV Medical Card to help cover expenses and cost of care, in addition to need-based funding from the state.
Phone: **1(800)-772-1213** Website: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/>
- **Apply for Waiver**
Title 19 Home and Community Based Waiver (I/DD Waiver):
Run through APS Healthcare. The IDD Waiver provides a lifetime medical card and a host of other services for children with lifelong disabilities. These services may include respite care, paid transportation, and therapeutic services.
Phone: **1(866)-385-8920**

Other Community Supports

- **West Virginia Training Center:**
Provides statewide positive behavior supports, awareness, education, and resources. Contact Marc Ellison, Ed.D. LPC.
Phone: (304)-696-2332
- **West Virginia Autism:**
Phone: (304)-412-1257
Email: WVautism@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/WVAutism/>
- **Corridor Chapter of WV**
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/CorridorAffiliateOfAsWv/>
- West Virginia Assistive Technology System & Loan Library-CED
WVATS helps to improve access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) in the areas of: education; community living; employment; and telecommunication. The WVATS AT4ALL system is a free online service to list and find assistive technology devices and durable medical equipment in West Virginia. See attached flyer for Center in Excellence in Disabilities (CED)

WV MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM

Aged and Disabled Waiver (ADW)- for people age 18 or older who meet the medical criteria of receiving nursing home care and who meet financial requirements.

- **Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Waiver (IDDW)**
for individuals who have intellectual disabilities and/or developmental disabilities who would otherwise be institutionalized.
- **Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance Waiver (CSEDW)**
provides support to children with severe serious emotional disturbances by helping to keep them with their families, in the home and with a support network while receiving the services they need to improve their outcomes.
- **Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver (TBIW)**
for people age 3 or older who have a traumatic brain injury defined as a non-degenerative, non-congenital insult to the brain caused by an external physical force resulting in total or partial functional disability and/or psychosocial impairment or an injury caused by anoxia due to near drowning and who meets the medical criteria of receiving nursing home care.

Title XIX ID/DD Home and Community-Base Waiver Program

Community service coordination, respite, residential habilitation, community

residential habilitation, adult companion services, environmental accessibility adaptations, medical and psychological services, nursing, day habilitation, supported employment and transportation services. Information about application process and eligibility. Program manuals are available by contacting the local behavioral health center or the State MR/DD Waiver Office.

Phone: (304) 800-461-0655 or 304-380-0617

Fax: (304) 343-9010

Recommended Books for Families

Autism

- *An Early Start for Your Child with Autism* by Rogers, Dawson, and Vismara
- *The Verbal Behavior Approach: How to Teach Children with Autism and Related Disorders* by Mary Barbera
- *Behavioral Interventions for Young Children with Autism* by Maurice, Green, and Fox
- *Teaching Individuals with Developmental Disabilities* by Ivan Lovaas
- *Autism: How to Raise a Happy Autistic Child* by Jessie Hewitson
- *Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism* by Dr. Barry Prizant
- *The Reason I Jump* by Naoki Higashida
- *Toilet Training for Individuals with Autism and Related Disorders* by Maria Wheeler
- *Turn Autism Around* by Mary Lynch Barbera
- *Ten Things Every Child with Autism Wishes You Knew* by Ellen Notbohm and Veronica Zysk
- *Play and Imagination in Children with Autism* by Pamela J. Wolfberg
- *Voices from the Spectrum: Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, People With Autism and Professionals Share Their Wisdom* Edited by Cindy N. Ariel, Editor & Robert A. Naseef
- *Girls Growing Up on the Autism Spectrum: What Parents and Professionals Should Know About the Pre-Teen and Teenage Years, 1st Edition* by Shana Nichols, Ph.D.
- *Parenting Girls On The Autism Spectrum: Overcoming The Challenges and Celebrating the Gifts* by Eileen Riley-Hall
- *Asperger's And Girls: World-Renowned Experts Join Those with Asperger's Syndrome to Resolve Issues that Girls and Women Face Every Day!* by Tony Attwood et al.
- *Life on the Autism Spectrum - A Guide for Girls and Women* by Karen McKibben
- *Aspergirls: Empowering Females with Asperger Syndrome* by Rudy Simone

Behavioral Concerns

- *S.O.S. Help for Parents* by Lynn Clark
- *1...2...3... Magic* by Thomas Phelan
- *The Kazdin Method for Parenting the Defiant Child* by Alan Kazdin
- *The Yes Brain: How to Cultivate Courage, Curiosity, and Resilience in Your Child* by Daniel Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson
- *The Whole-Brain Child* by Daniel Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson
- *No-Drama Discipline* by Daniel Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson
- *Parenting with Love and Logic* by Foster Cline, M.D., and Jim Fay

Books for Children with Autism

- *All My Stripes: A Story for Children with Autism* by Shaina Rudolph
- *Uniquely Wired: A Story about Autism and Its Gifts* by Julia Cook
- *The Girl who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* by Julia Finley Mosca
- *I See Things Differently: A First Look at Autism* by Pat Thomas
- *Noah Chases the Wind* by Michelle Worthington

- *Ethan's Story: My Life with Autism* by Ethan Rice
- *Different Like Me: My Book of Autism Heroes* by Jennifer Elder
- *Autism is...?* by Ymkje Wideman-van der Laan
- *My Friend with Autism* by Beverly Bishop
- *Cooper and the Big Apple* by Camille Cohn
- *Hello, My Name is Max and I have Autism: An Insight into the Autistic Mind* by Max Miller
- *Slug Days* by Sara Leach
- *I Love Being My Own Autistic Self!* by Landon Bryce
- *The Survival Guide for Kids with Autism Spectrum Disorders (And Their Parents)* by Elizabeth Verdick and Elizabeth Reeve, MD
- *Nathan's Autism Spectrum Superpowers* by Lori Leigh Yarborough
- *My Social Stories Book* edited by Gray, White, and McAndrew

Books for Children about Peers with Autism

- *We're Amazing 1, 2, 3! A Story About Friendship and Autism* by Leslie Kimmelman
- *The Girl who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* by Julia Finley Mosca
- *Autism is...?* by Ymkje Wideman-van der Laan
- *A Friend like Simon* by Kate Gaynor
- *Since We're Friends: An Autism Picture Book* by Celeste Shally
- *Hey I'm Alex* by LeAnn Pellegrin

Books for Siblings of Children with Autism

- *Leah's Voice* by Lori DeMonia
- *Tacos Anyone? An Autism Story* by Marvie Ellis
- *What about Me? A Book by and for an Autism Sibling* by Brennan and Mandy Farmer
- *My Brother Charlie* by Holly Robinson Peete and Ryan Elizabeth Peete
- *My Brother is Autistic* by Jennifer Moore-Mallinos
- *Sometimes My Brother: Helping Kids Understand Autism through a Sibling's Eyes* by Angie Greenlaw
- *Boys Alone: A Brother's Memoir* by Karl Taro Greenfield
- *Everybody is Different: A Book for Young People who have Brothers or Sisters with Autism* by Fiona Bleach
- *Autism through a Sister's Eyes: A Young Girl's View of her Brother's Autism* by Eve B. Band, Ph.D., and Emily Hecht
- *Autism, the Invisible Cord: A Sibling's Diary* by Barbara Cain

Recommended Websites for Families

Welcome to the Autism Community

- "What is Autism?" by Cincinnati Children's Hospital
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwaaphuStxY>)
- "Welcome to the Autistic Community" by the Autistic Self Advocacy Network
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnuGPJ7UdpU>)
- "Invisible Diversity: A Story of Undiagnosed Autism," by Carrie Beckwith-Fellows
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cF2dhWWUyQ4>)

Autism

- Autism Speaks is an excellent resource for toolkits to help with various concerns that families have, ranging from toilet training and poor sleep to disruptive behavior and learning social skills. Toolkits are free, and the website has a great list of WV resources as well as family support groups that others have found helpful.
(<http://www.autismspeaks.org>)

- Autism Navigator is a website that has an easy registration and free access. It provides videos of various “red flags” for Autism Spectrum Disorder in comparison to children without ASD. (<https://resources.autismnavigator.com/aboutAutism/question/01v.html>)
- The National Autism Resource and Information Center is a dynamic and interactive, highly visible and effective central point of quality resources and information for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, their families, and other targeted key stakeholders. (<http://www.autismnow.org>)
- The National Autism Association provides information about safety, school support, sibling relationships, and resources for families of children with autism. (<http://www.nationalautismassociation.org>)
- The Autism Parenting Magazine provides access to solutions for dealing with sensory issues, advice for handling transitions, potential therapies for children with autism, updated news and research, and real life stories by parents of children on the spectrum as well as by adults with autism to guide, inspire, and provide everyday support. (www.autismparentingmagazine.com)
- The Autism Society is the leading grassroots ASD organization in the US. It is dedicated to increasing public awareness about day-to-day issues faced by people on the autism spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals, and providing the latest information on treatment, education, research, and advocacy. The website features links to nationwide ASD-related services and supports by location. (<http://www.autism-society.org>)
- A free copy of *Educating Children with Autism* is available to you. It features chapters on diagnosis and prevalence, family roles and planning, educational services, comprehensive and domain-specific treatment approaches, public policy and legal issues, and scientific recommendations. (www.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=0309072697)
- The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities a division of the Office of Special Education Programs of the US Department of Education. It features information on specific disabilities, early intervention services for infants and toddlers, special education and related services for children in school, research on effective educational practices, resources and connections in every state, parenting materials, disability organizations and professional associations, education rights and what the law requires, and transition to adult life. (<http://nichcy.org>)
- Organization for Autism Research is an online resource for applied research to answer questions that parents, families, individuals with autism, teachers, and caregivers confront daily. (<http://www.researchautism.org>)
- The University of California-Davis MIND Institute is a collaborative international research center committed to the awareness, understanding, prevention, care, and cure of neurodevelopmental disorders. This section of its website offers a comprehensive guide to medical and behavioral treatment approaches, disability information, state and federal resources, available print materials, and support group information. The Mind Institute's Distinguished Lecture Series videos on autism (featuring internationally renowned researchers) is also accessible. (www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/resources)
- The Arc Autism NOW (www.autismnow.org) The Arc is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Autism NOW is a dynamic and interactive, highly visible and effective central point of quality resources and information for individuals with Autism and their families.
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) seeks to advance the principles of the disability rights movement with regard to autism. ASAN believes that the goal of autism advocacy should be a world in which autistic people enjoy equal access, rights, and opportunities (<https://autisticadvocacy.org/>)

Behavior

- The following videos from WVU Medicine Children's Hospital provide great parenting resources to help deal with a variety of challenging behaviors:
 - Managing Tantrums https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpIF_vDurCY
 - Dealing with Problem Behaviors <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbsqI-BzRSY>
 - Improving Compliance at Home <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSKaTqxNoKM>
 - Common Sleep Problems in Children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxttVwUhfU>
 - Quick Coping Ideas for Parents <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZ7i4tl7A-0>
 - Coping Skills for Children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uap5LZmyXhg>
 - How to Use Social Stories and Visual Schedules <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eptl2DhtwVw>
 - Change in Schedule <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PZ6HdKgzc>
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital's Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (DDBP) has an excellent website that contains their "Virtual Outreach Series," which includes a library of lectures and videos geared toward parents and caregivers. (<https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/service/d/developmental-behavioral/patients/outreach>)



Center for Excellence in Disabilities

The WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED) has a variety of program offerings to help individuals with disabilities be as independent as possible in their own communities. Most programs work with individuals outside of the medical setting to help ensure that they are able to participate fully in their lives.

WVU CED Programs & Services

Disability Resource Libraries: Provide educational information and resource materials to individuals with disabilities, family members and practitioners. Contain over 5,000 resources including books, dvds, assistive technology, demonstration kits and medical models available to borrow. Located in Morgantown and Big Chimney.

Contact: mjaynes@hsc.wvu.edu
or visit: cedwvu.org/resources

Family to Family (F2F) and Paths for Parents (P4P): Parent mentoring programs that provide peer-to-peer support and self-advocacy coaching. Parent support groups, parent education courses and parent leadership opportunities within the field of healthcare are available through these programs. Paths for Parents serves children and families enrolled in the WV Children with Special Health Care Needs program. Family to Family serves any individual with disabilities and family members. Contact: F2FHIC@hsc.wvu.edu or call **304-293-4692**

Mentoring with Oversight for Developing Independence with Foster Youth (MODIFY): Provides services and supports to youth aging out of foster care, or former foster youth, while transitioning to adult independent living. Contact: modified@hsc.wvu.edu or call **304-205-6424**.

Positive Behavior Support (PBS): PBS addresses challenging behavior and helps increase quality of life. Services include Brainstorming via telehealth, Person Centered Planning, and Intensive Services for children with serious emotional disturbances that are at risk of out of home placement. Contact: pbs@hsc.wvu.edu or call **855-558-4296**

Specialized Family Care (SFC): Recruits and trains host families to provide care and training in a nurturing family living environment (aka foster care home) for individuals, both children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who need full-time care. SFC also certifies respite care homes which can serve SFC homes and natural family homes. Contact: michelemount@hsc.wvu.edu or call **304-627-2295** or **304-356-4562**

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Services: Provides services and supports to persons with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) through patient navigation and resource coordination. Connects individuals with TBI to the Funds For You Financial Assistance Program and Neuropsychological Evaluations. Offers technical assistance to agencies, individuals, and professionals to enhance service capacity and knowledge in the field of TBI through training. Contact: tbi@hsc.wvu.edu or call **877-724-8244**

Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA): Provides information about options for individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI) who want to work. Contact: jtenney@hsc.wvu.edu or call **304-293-4692**

WV Assistive Technology System (WVATS): Provides device demonstrations and assistance on assistive technology devices to help individuals with disabilities to be more independent. Loan library has over 5,000 devices for individuals, families and professionals to borrow. Contact: wvats@hsc.wvu.edu or call **800-841-8436**

Regional Transition Navigator (RTN): Connects youth and young adults to needed services and support. The RTN Program is available to individuals aged 14-25 who have been diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance, mental illness, and/or substance use disorders. Contact: RTN_WV@hsc.wvu.edu or call **844-274-8683**

WVU CED/LEND Clinical Services

Feeding & Swallowing Clinic:

Provides interdisciplinary assessments and recommendations for children from birth to 21 years of age who have feeding problems. Improves eating skills and behaviors, physical growth and development and the nutritional status of children.

Contact: ccorbett@hsc.wvu.edu or call **304-293-4692**

Next Steps Clinic:

Provides assessments of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and other neurodevelopmental disabilities and provides an interdisciplinary diagnostic assessment to develop an "individualized life plan." Contact:

lend@hsc.wvu.edu or call **304-293-4692**

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND):

Provides training to graduate and professional students to serve children and youth with disabilities and the families that care for them. Trainees are paired with mentors in their field to gain hands on, real life training experiences. Contact:

lend@hsc.wvu.edu or call **304-293-4692**

Mental Health Services:

Supports individuals to increase their well-being, exercise choices and seek resources to support their mental health status. Services include individual or group counseling, training and consultation. Contact: eric.murphy@hsc.wvu.edu or call **304-293-4692**.

www.cedwvu.org

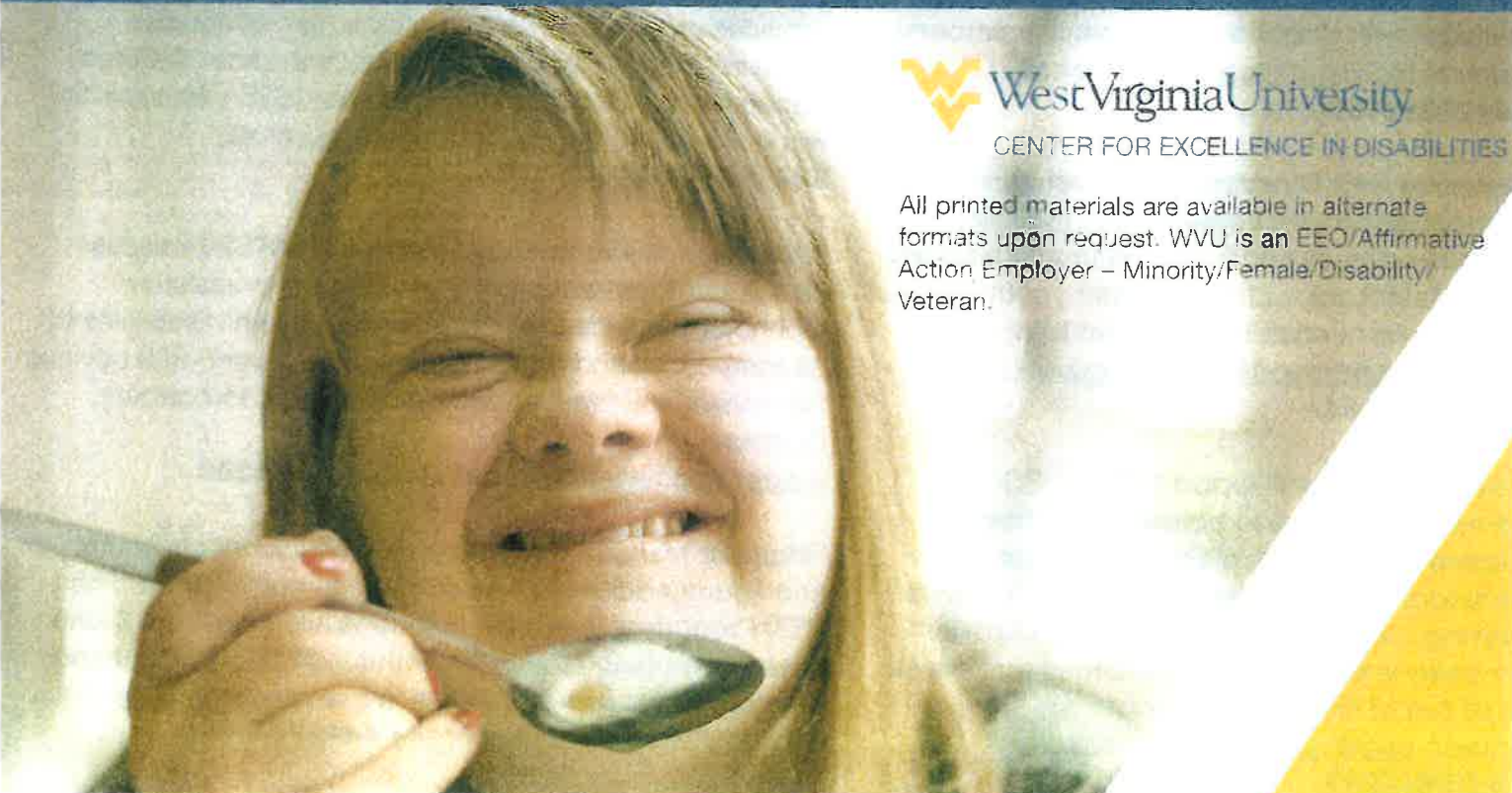
1-888-829-9426

Big Chimney Office
4510 Pennsylvania Ave. Suite B
Big Chimney, WV 25302
304-720-3200

Morgantown Office
959 Hartman Run Road
Morgantown, WV 26505
304-293-4692



All printed materials are available in alternate formats upon request. WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer – Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran.



WV Birth to Three

West Virginia's Early Intervention System under Part C of the
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

800-442-2311 • 1-800-542-1234 • 1-800-642-6766 • www.wv.gov/health



WV Birth to Three services are administered by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health in cooperation with the Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC).



Eligibility

- A child must be less than 36 months of age.
- There are no financial eligibility requirements.

Eligibility is based only on a child meeting one or more of the following criteria:

1. Diagnosed by a multi-disciplinary team as having a significant delay in one or more of the following areas of development in accordance with the State's definition:
 - Cognitive development
 - Physical development including vision and hearing
 - Communication development
 - Social and emotional development
 - Adaptive development
2. Diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay. Examples of such conditions include, but are not limited to:
 - Down syndrome and other chromosomal abnormalities associated with delay;
 - Congenital syndromes or genetic disorders associated with developmental delays; and/or
 - Inborn errors of metabolism.
3. Experiencing multiple biological and/or environmental risk factors in accordance with the State's definition.

Referrals

Parents, physicians, service providers, or others who think a child may need early intervention services should refer the child to the Regional Administrative Unit (RAU) for the county where the child lives (see listing on next page). By federal law, primary referral sources are required to make a referral within seven days of suspecting that a child may be in need of early intervention services. Effective July 1, 2012, in accordance with federal regulations, children who are referred to WV Birth to Three less than 45 days before their third birthday will not be evaluated for eligibility. Parents will be provided information about other possible resources that could benefit their children and, with parent consent, WV Birth to Three will assist with referring these children to the county school district to determine whether the child is eligible for services.

Children age three years or older with suspected developmental delays should be referred to their local county school district for possible services.

Assessment/Plan

Children who are suspected of having or being at significant risk of developmental delay may receive a multidisciplinary evaluation to determine eligibility for WV Birth to Three services under Part C IDEA. The assessment also helps to identify the needs of the child and family. With participation of the family, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed based upon the strength and abilities of the child and shaped by the concerns and priorities of the family. Services and supports listed on the plan are targeted to help the family promote the child's development through participation in daily routines and learning opportunities.

According to federal law, Part C services identified on a child/family's IFSP are delivered in natural environments. Families determine the environment in which the child would be if he/she was not in need of early intervention services. Services may also support the family's participation in community activities and everyday routines.

A variety of specialists may be called upon to help the family decide what strategies and services are needed to address their unique outcomes. These specialists may include:

- Audiologists
- Counselors, social workers
- Child development specialists
- Nurses
- Occupational therapists
- Physical therapists
- Registered dietitians
- Speech language pathologists
- Vision specialists

WV Birth to Three provides these services through enrolled professionals who meet the highest standard in their respective discipline. Transportation may be a Part C service in the rare instances when a family may have to travel to obtain a WV Birth to Three service.

Cost of Services

Part C services listed on a child/family's IFSP are provided at no cost to the family. WV Birth to Three may bill public insurance with no cost to the family.

These services are funded in part by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C, through the U.S. Department of Education and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (the state's lead agency responsible for implementation), Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, in cooperation with the West Virginia Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council.

Additional Questions

For more information, you may call the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, WV Birth to Three at 304-558-5388, or toll-free at 1-800-642-9704.

WV Birth to Three Local Points of Entry

Region 1 – Regional Administrative Unit

Catholic Charities West Virginia
2000 Main Street, Suite 222, Wheeling, WV 26003
Phone: (304) 214-5775; Toll-free: 1-800-619-5697
Fax: (304) 214-5792

Serves: Brooke, Hancock, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Tyler, Wetzel

Region 2 – Regional Administrative Unit

The Arc of Mid Ohio Valley
1917 Dudley Avenue, Parkersburg, WV 26101
Phone: (304) 485-2000; Toll-free: 1-866-401-8919
Fax: (304) 865-2072

Serves: Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt, Wood

Region 3 – Regional Administrative Unit

River Valley Child Development Services
1 Players Club Drive, Suite 160, Charleston, WV 25311
Phone: (304) 414-4460; Toll-free: 1-844-885-0618
Fax: (304) 414-4461

Serves: Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Roane

Region 4 – Regional Administrative Unit

River Valley Child Development Services
432 2nd Street, Huntington, WV 25701
Phone: (304) 523-5444; Toll-free: 1-866-WVBTT55 (1-866-982-8855)
Fax: (304) 523-5556

Serves: Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, Wayne

Region 5 – Regional Administrative Unit

MountainHeart Community Services
1200 Harrison Avenue, Suite 220, Elkins, WV 26241
Phone: (304) 637-2844; Toll-free: 1-800-449-7790
Fax: (304) 637-2845

Serves: Barbour, Lewis, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur

Region 6 – Regional Administrative Unit

MountainHeart Community Services
Work 4 WV Center, 25 Red Oak Shopping Center, P.O. Box 1610, Lewisburg, WV 24901
Phone: (304) 647-3810; Toll-free: 1-866-229-0461
Fax: (304) 647-5521

Serves: Braxton, Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Summers, Webster

Region 7 – Regional Administrative Unit

MountainHeart Community Services
1411 North Walker Street, Princeton, WV 24740
Phone: (304) 425-2926; Toll-free: 1-866-207-6198
Fax: (304) 425-7367

Serves: Fayette, Mercer, McDowell, Raleigh, Wyoming

Region 8 – Regional Administrative Unit

EPIC—Eastern Panhandle Instructional Cooperative
109 South College Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401
Phone: (304) 267-3595; Toll-free: 1-800-367-3728
Fax: (304) 267-3599

Serves: Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, Pendleton

Alternate Diploma: Tip Sheet for School Personnel



- Effective SY 2020-2021, after a short transition period from the modified diploma, West Virginia moved to the option of an **alternate diploma** for graduation. The **alternate diploma** has **replaced** the modified diploma. The modified diploma is no longer an option. All students earning diplomas must have completed standards-based instruction.
- The alternate diploma is an alternate path to graduation determined by the IEP Team for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
- Students pursuing an alternate diploma must complete the **same** graduation requirements (credits) as their peers pursuing a regular diploma. Students pursuing an alternate diploma will receive credits and grades for all classes, just as their general education peers.
- When determining class rankings, consider that county school boards have the final determination as to whether any course will be calculated in a student's GPA. WVEIS course pages have the option available regarding whether a course can be used in calculating a student GPA or not. Refer to WVEIS 2.0 guidelines on Calculating GPAs and Class Rank. **Districts should have local policies to address class rank for students working toward an alternate diploma.**
- Students pursuing an alternate diploma will have course codes indicated on their transcripts for all classes, just as students pursuing a regular diploma. Transcripts for students working toward an alternate diploma will reflect the course codes associated with either the College and Career Readiness Standards or Alternate Academic Achievement Standards where appropriate. Please refer to the WVEIS course code manual for appropriate alternate standards course codes. Consider the following:
 - Course codes are available in the WVDE Course Code Manual under the WVEIS Support tab.
 - If a district creates a course, standards must be county-created and locally approved.
 - Students may not receive credit for the same course more than once.
 - According to Office for Civil Rights guidance (October 2008), "transcripts may not disclose that a student has a disability or has received special education or related services due to having a disability."
- Alternate standards are only created for **credit bearing courses** required for graduation in Policy 2510. Students who participate in the alternate standards courses receive an alternate diploma.
 - The only alternate standards course codes that will be utilized are already created and are in the current course code manual.
 - Counties have the ability to utilize elective course codes in the manual or create their own courses and request codes; however, they will not be labeled "alternate." None of these general elective courses currently have state approved standards so counties will have to create local standards.
 - LEAs may utilize the "School Use" 9th and 10th digit in the extension portion of the code for internal purposes (found in the extension after the initial 4-digit course code). The 9th and 10th digits will be individually developed by LEAs. The 9th and 10th digits of extensions are not state approved or mandated as there are no statewide codes to identify special education schedules.
 - Alternate course codes are not created for grades K-8 or any elective courses.
- Students pursuing an alternate diploma may be enrolled in general education classes. It is not uncommon for students working toward an alternate diploma to take general education electives and/or Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. Any student enrolled in CTE must be able to pass the required safety test. If a student pursuing an alternate diploma is consistently successful in general education classes, the diploma option may need to be revisited by the IEP Team. IEP Teams should review eligibility for the alternate diploma at each annual review.

- Some students working toward an alternate diploma may require extended time to meet graduation credit requirements or meet individualized transition goals as determined by the student's IEP Team. FAPE ensures students working toward an alternate diploma can remain enrolled until the end of the school year following their 21st birthday, if needed. This is an individualized decision as remaining in high school until age 21 may not be appropriate for all students working toward an alternate diploma. If a student remains in school until age 21, the following guidance applies:
 - Transition goals should align with transition plans based on individualized assessments.
 - Students should be enrolled in high school full time.
 - Students will adhere to attendance policies.
 - For students with disabilities, the Personalized Education Plan (PEP) and the transition section of the IEP should align to ensure the student is working on a consistent set of goals that will facilitate movement from school to post-school activities in accordance with Policy 2419.
- If a student remains in school until age 21, the student shall be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies with the student's original cohort if requested by the parent/adult student per Policy 2419, and should be retained in the 12th grade in their enrollment record as well as on the IEP until they are not returning for services. If a student remains in school, they should not be exited from services.
- The diploma (paper certificate) awarded to students at the graduation ceremony shall look identical and contain the same language for all students. Disabilities shall not be indicated on the credential. Alternate courses codes, however, will be listed on official student transcripts.
- Student enrollment and special education service codes must match the services the student is receiving. The following status codes should be used in the **special education services screens in WVEIS**:

Code 30: Students pursuing an alternate diploma who are remaining until age 21. These students will continue in the 12th grade for enrollment and continue receiving special education services.

Code 40: All students exiting special education services due to receiving a regular diploma. These students should be marked as graduates in enrollment only after all requirements for graduation are met.

Code 55: Students exiting special education services due to receiving an alternate diploma. These students should be marked as graduates in enrollment only after all requirements for graduation are met.

Alternate Diploma Course Elective Examples

2022-2023 Course Code Manual:
Miscellaneous: Instructional (Local)

7557	LRN STRATS I	LEARNING STRATEGIES I
7558	LRN STRATS II	LEARNING STRATEGIES II
7559	LRN STRATS III	LEARNING STRATEGIES III
7560	LRN STRATS IV	LEARNING STRATEGIES IV
7610	DAILY LIVING SKILLS	DAILY LIVING SKILLS
7561	DLY LIV SKILLS II	DAILY LIVING SKILLS II
7562	DLY LIV SKILLS III	DAILY LIVING SKILLS III
7563	DLY LIV SKILLS IV	DAILY LIVING SKILLS IV
7603	AL PRC/WRKPL	ALTERNATE PROCESS/WORKPLACE SKILLS
7611	SOCIAL SKILLS	SOCIAL SKILLS
7613	WORKPLACE SKILLS	WORKPLACE SKILLS
7653	LRN SKILLS	LEARNING SKILLS
7678	CAREER SKILLS	CAREER SKILLS

*These courses are located under the Miscellaneous: Instructional (Local) section of the Course Code Manual.
The standards for these courses are county created and locally approved.*

“I was 1/2 years old when I had my first child. The people in Early Head Start helped me so much.”



“Meeting other parents who are experiencing the same things that I have made me feel less alone.”



“I get an opportunity to participate in my child's education.”



“We have more family time.”

Mountainview Early Head Start

671 Greenbag Rd.
Morgantown, WV 26508
Phone: 304-296-4901
Fax: 304-296-4399

Daybrook Early Head Start

2097 Daybrook Rd.
Fairview, WV 26570
Phone: 304-798-3230
Fax: 304-798-3266



www.mcsesearlychildhood.org

Administrative Office

1453 Dwyer Ave
Morgantown, WV 26507
Phone: 304-291-3330
Fax: 304-291-3324

EO/AAE OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Monongalia County Schools operates as an equal opportunity institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, gender, marital or family status, age, or disabling condition in its activities or programs or employment practices as required in Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Monongalia County Schools

Early Head Start

Families Learning and Growing Together



“My children and I have everything about Early Head Start I could want. I made the experience for anything.”

We Partner with families to support their child's school readiness skills

Including Language, Intellectual, Motor, and Social/Emotional Development



Eligibility

- ♥ Multilingual Learning Families
- ♥ Frequent women
- ♥ Families with children between 0-3 years
- ♥ Priority given to families who meet the Head Start income guidelines



Parents are their child's first teacher.

Early Head Start Provides...

- ♥ Healthy home-visits with fun learning activities
- ♥ Support groups for both parents
- ♥ Social and Family Fun Nights
- ♥ Transportation to program events
- ♥ Connections to community, medical, social, and financial resources
- ♥ Opportunity for transition to Head Start

Additional Resources and Links

- Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
www.fhcn.org
- WV System of Care
www.systemofcare.org
- Bureau of Behavioral Health and Health Facilities
www.dhhr.wv.gov/bhhf
- WV DHHR Bureau for Children and Families
www.wv.gov/bcf/bcf.html
- National Mental Health Planning Council
www.nmhc.org
- Child Abuse & Neglect Program
www.dhs.gov/nep/naa
- WV Department of Education
www.dep.state.wv.us/naa
- Wright's Law
www.wrights-law.com/
- Family Leadership Fund
www.familyleadershipfundwv.com/



MSP-CAN

Mountain State Parent, Child & Adolescent Network

Mountain State Parents CAN
is the state organization of the
Federation of Families
for Children's Mental Health.

MSP-CAN

2351 Garfield Avenue #C
Parkersburg, WV 26101
www.facebook.com/MountainStateParentsCAN
www.msp-can.org

(304) 428-0365
1-800-244-5385

MSPCAN'S Statewide Family Network
program is funded by
Substance Abuse
Mental Health Services Administration



MSP-CAN

Mountain State Parent, Child & Adolescent Network

Children's Mental
Health Matters

1-800-244-5385

www.facebook.com/MountainStateParentsCAN
www.msp-can.org

As families and professionals, we must dare to hope and dream about what might be for our children and youth.

The Mountain State Parent and Child Adolescent Network (MSP-CAN) is a statewide family organization for families, caregivers and youth with mental health issues. Our mission is to provide support, education, information and referral for parents, families and the community by focusing on the emotional, behavioral and learning needs of children and youth. This important work is done so that:

- Families remain together.
- Children stay in their communities.
- Children Succeed academically and socially.
- Children contribute to their communities.
- Children and their families thrive.

What does MSP-CAN provide

- Individual Emotional Support
- Information
- Referral
- Legislative News on Children's Issues
- Youth Leadership Program
- Parent Advisory Council
- Newsletter

MSP-CAN

Mountain State Parent, Child & Adolescent Network

We are only a phone call away!

(304) 428-0365

1-800-244-5385

2351 Garfield Avenue #C

Parkersburg, WV 26101

www.facebook.com/MountainStateParentsCAN

www.msp-can.org

We Believe...

Children and youth who have serious emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges:

- Must be individuals first.
- Have rights and strengths that should be respected by all.
- Are members of a family.

Families of these young people:

- Have strengths and needs.
- Must be viewed as team members and experts since they have 7 days a week, 24 hours a day lifelong experiences.
- Have many ways of adjusting to family needs.
- Are a source of strength for their young people.

Services provided to children of youth with special needs and their families:

- Must emphasize strengths, must be based on need, and are affordable.
- Must be accessible for that family.
- Must be provided respectfully, nonjudgementally and unconditionally.
- Must be provided when possible, support through networking and partnerships with others.
- Must be provided locally whenever possible.

**Adapted from the Philosophy Statement of the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health*

WVU Speech, Language, Hearing Clinic



GNO: Girls Night Out Program

Empowering females with autism and related disabilities

What is GNO? Girls Night Out (GNO) is a social skills and self-care program for girls with autism and related developmental disabilities. This program incorporates evidence-based strategies to teach and practice social and self-care skills within natural community settings. GNO includes girls without disabilities, as trained peer volunteers that help create social opportunities and model use of skills.

The GNO curriculum targets:

- Relating to others
- Feeling confident and competent in social skills and taking care of yourself
- Individualized supports

Participating in GNO provided opportunities to:

- Meet new people
- Engage in meaningful connections
- Improve conversational skills
- Celebrate individuality
- GNO happens in social settings within the community, NOT in a clinic
- GNO is based on research about girls with and without autism and their families
- Participants include girls with and without ASD
- GNO-JR (girls ages 10-13 years old)
- GNO-Teen (adolescent to young adult)
- Meet once a week (Tuesdays, 3-4pm beginning June 20 until August 15)

The sessions will be under the supervision of Assistant Professor, Molly Abitbol, M.S., CCC-SLP. Mrs. Abitbol completed her master's degree through Nova Southeastern University after She has experience in the evaluation and treatment of individuals with ASD and related disabilities.

What is the cost to you?

GNO is a Rite Care clinic funded opportunity provided at no cost for those in need of language and/or reading instruction.

For more information, please contact Melissa Dew: Melissa.mitchell@hsc.wvu.edu, phone: 304-293-6817, fax: 304-293-2905



The Corridor Chapter of the Autism Society of West Virginia was formed in 2013. Our mission is to provide educational resources, training, and community programs for children and families affected by autism in our area.

Volunteer Board of the Corridor Chapter:

**Lea Robinson
Carol Giles**

**Peggy Hovatter
Mel Britton**

**Rhea Dyer
Amy Reinhart**

Address: The Corridor Chapter of AS-WV, PO Box 175, Bridgeport, WV 26330

Facebook page: Corridor Chapter of AS-WV Email: corridorchapterwv@gmail.com

Our Chapter territory covers the following counties in WV: Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, and Taylor.

The Corridor Chapter has over 175 families registered. We do activities that benefit our families affected by ASD which focus on being supportive, educational, and social. Almost everything we do is free of charge to our families.

Examples of some of our sponsored activities include:

- **Kick-Off Picnic at Bridgeport City Park in 2013.**
- **Holding an Autism Swimming Challenge for 8 of the last 10 years. In September 2016, the swimming challenge moved to Fairmont State University where the FSU Swim Team works with our children.**
- **Annually holding the Walk for Autism in Nutter Fort at the Clarksburg City Park that a significant number of our families and supporters attend. We always have activities, food, and informational tables there from different groups that provide services.**
- **Scheduling Sensory Friendly movies.**
- **Providing Training and Education - Program on IEP's and Positive Behavior Support for parents; Author Dr. Lintala to discuss her book, "The Unprescription for Autism"; local First Responder Training, Social Thinking speaker, Homestead Farm events.**
- **Supporting Project Lifesaver.**
- **Providing bus trips to the Carnegie Science Center, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh Zoo, Duquesne Incline, Tubing at Wisp.**
- **Doing the Alpine Tower and Ziplining at the WVU Challenge Course**
- **Bringing Carnegie Museum to West Virginia for a STEM program/event.**
- **Providing social and sensory activities for ASD families – Halloween dance, Blackbear games, swimming parties, bowling, trampoline park, pumpkin farm, art activities.**