

AGES 6 - 12 LIFESPAN CHECKLIST



The following is a brief checklist of things to help you get started. This checklist is meant to serve as a guide only and is not exhaustive of all services and supports you should explore for your child or family member.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE, AND RELATED THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS

- Understand the definitions for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), and why a person should be diagnosed.
- Learn about treatment options and therapies
- Sign up for the Autism Waiver
- Apply to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
- Investigate Behavior Supports if you need them
- Schedule regular re-evaluations and medical follow-up to measure progress and identify challenges
- Develop a system to organize your paperwork
- Develop a good group of providers and supports that will continue to work with your family on a long term basis
- Learn more about Medical Assistance
- Explore dental resources
- Explore miscellaneous health and medical resources
- Explore funding options for Medical Care

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Learn all you can about Assistive Technology services available
- Explore financial assistance for Assistive Technology

EDUCATION

- Learn all you can about educational options that are available (Diploma vs Certificate of Completion)
- Learn about the special education process and IEPs
- Learn about 504 Plans
- Determine with your IEP team which state assessment tests are most appropriate for your child
- Contact your Parents' Place of Maryland, Partners for Success Family Center, or the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for assistance with school issues, IEP development, school resources
- Prepare for the transition from elementary to middle school
- Understand your student's placement options
- Address any instances of bullying immediately
- Understand matters of discipline including suspension and expulsion
- Get involved with your local Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee (SECAC) or the Maryland Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)
- Explore summer time options
- Develop a system to organize education records
- Contact your local Child Find office
- Explore homeschooling as an educational option
- Explore additional educational resources
- Explore additional special education legal resources as needed
- State resources for assistance with school issues, IEP development, school resources

SOCIAL AND RELATIONSHIPS

- Help your child learn about appropriate social skills
- Teach your child about his/her body and sexuality as age appropriate
- Develop the recreational and leisure activities that your child enjoys

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SAFETY

- Teach your child about stranger danger
- Discuss what is appropriate talk and touch
- Address wandering and elopement
- Explore additional safety resources

FUNDING FOR SERVICES AND LEGAL ISSUES

- Review the “Financial Things Every Parent of a Child with Autism Needs to Know”
- Sign up for the Autism Waiver
- Determine if your child is eligible for Social Security Benefits
- Apply to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
- Learn about life planning tools and options
- Develop a system to organize financial and legal records

SUPPORT: SUPPORT GROUPS AND RESPITE

- Network with others at a support group
- Identify your support system
- Take care of yourself, your spouse, your other children
- Investigate respite care options
- Involve your other children

ADVOCACY AND SELF-ADVOCACY

- Learn how to be an advocate for your child
- Get involved with your local Special Education Citizen’s Advisory Committee (SECAC) or the Maryland Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)
- Help your child learn self-advocacy skills

For the supporting information and details, visit www.pathfindersforautism.org/autism-by-age