



Statewide Parent
Advocacy Network

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NJ's Family to Family Health Information Center &
Family Voices State Affiliate Organization

EARLY INTERVENTION & EDUCATION RESOURCES FOR FAMILY SUCCESS CENTERS, FQHCs, & OTHER CBOS WORKING WITH FAMILIES WHO HAVE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers Birth to Age 3

If you are helping a family with an infant or toddler with disabilities, developmental delays, or special healthcare needs:

- ***Help the family contact the early intervention “system point of entry.” Call the toll-free number, 888-653-4463.*** The family will be given information about the early intervention system and asked some questions about their child’s development and why they think there may be some problems with their child’s health and development. The early intervention system will schedule a convenient time for an evaluation team to come out to the family’s home to do an evaluation to determine their child’s eligibility. If the child is determined to be eligible, the family will be assigned a Service Coordinator. The Service Coordinator, the parent, and a representative from the evaluation team will develop an Individualized Family Services Plan. Most services are provided in the home, although services can be provided in child care centers and other community settings if that is most convenient for the family. Services are provided at no cost to families with incomes up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Services are provided on a sliding fee scale for families with incomes at or above 300% of the FPL. If the family has concerns with their early intervention services, families can talk to a Family Support staff at their Regional Early Intervention Collaborative (REIC). You can find the list of REICs at <http://www.njeis.org>. Families can also call SPAN at 800-654-SPAN. If families still have concerns, help the family contact the Procedural Safeguards Office toll free at 877-258-6585. For an overview of the early intervention system and family rights in the process, go to <http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/documents/intervention.pdf>.

Education Services for Preschoolers and School-Age Children with Disabilities 3-21

If you are helping a family with a preschooler or school-age child with disabilities, developmental delays, or special healthcare needs:

- ***Help the family contact Project Child Find. Call the toll-free number, 800-322-8174.*** This number is staffed 7 days/week, 24 hours/day. The family will be given information about how to contact their school district to request an evaluation and their rights in the process. Families should request a copy of the PRISE (Parental Rights in Special Education) booklet which contains an overview of their rights. The parents will be invited to a meeting with the school district where the parent(s) and the district Child Study Team (CST) will discuss whether or not the child will be evaluated. If they all agree that the child will be evaluated, the CST will get parental permission to evaluate, conduct the evaluation, and then meet with the parent to discuss whether or not the child is eligible. If the child is eligible for special education, the parent and CST will meet to develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which will include the child’s strengths and needs, educational goals and objectives, services to be provided, and where services will be provided (hopefully in the general education classroom to the maximum extent possible). SPAN’s Basic Rights manual is available at www.spannj.org/BasicRights. To access the PRISE booklet in English, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, or Korean, go to <http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/info/>. If parents have concerns, they should contact SPAN at 800-654-SPAN.

HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR FAMILY SUCCESS CENTERS WORKING WITH FAMILIES WHO HAVE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

If you are working with a family who has a child with special healthcare needs, developmental delays or cognitive disabilities, or physical health issues:

- **Help the family contact their county Special Child Health Services (SCHS) Case Management Unit (CMU).** Call 609-777-7778 to find the nearest SCHS CMU or go to <http://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/sch/sccase.shtml>. A case manager will be assigned to work with the family and the child's physician to evaluate the child's strengths and needs and to develop an individual service plan for the child and family addressing medical, educational, developmental, social and economic needs of the child and family. The case manager can help sign the child up for Medicaid, Family Care, or Family Care Advantage; register the child with the Department of Children and Families, the Division for the Blind, the Division for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing, or other resource; connect the child to specialty care and dental care; help the family apply for the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund if the family has unreimbursed medical expenses or expenses to make their home accessible, etc.; and/or advocate with the family for the child's educational services. If the child is an undocumented immigrant without health insurance, the case manager can connect the child to the nearest Federally Qualified Health Center for free or low cost comprehensive healthcare services.

If you are working with a family who has a child with emotional, mental health, or behavioral needs:

- **Help the family contact Perform Care, the Contracted Systems Administrator for New Jersey's Child Behavioral Health System.** Call 877-652-7624 (24 hours/day, 7 days/week) to find out whether the child is eligible for services from the county Care Management Organization; mobile response and stabilization services; or Youth case management services. Families can also access family support from their county Family Support Organization (FSO). You can contact the NJ Alliance of FSOs at <http://njalliance-fso.org/> to find out how to reach the nearest FSO. The FSOs have support groups, parenting and educational programs, connections to parent mentors, and youth groups.

If you are working with a family who has questions about their child's health:

- **Help the family contact the Department of Health's Family Health Line at 800-328-3838 (24 hours/day, 7 days/week) or check out the resources available on the NJ Health Link <http://www.nj.gov/njhealthlink/>.**

If you are working with a family who is interested in other disabilities/special healthcare resources:

- **Help the family get a copy of the Division of Disability Services' Disability Resources Guide available online at http://accessdmv.net/humanservices/dds/RD_08.pdf or call the Division to order a free copy at 888-285-3036;**
- **Help the family contact the Family Support Center at 800-372-6510 or www.fscnj.org to access resources for families of children with disabilities and special healthcare needs;**
- **Help the family find a support group by contacting NJ Self-Help Clearinghouse 800-367-6274 or going to <http://www.njgroups.org/>;**
- **Help the family get connected to a Parent to Parent Support Parent at 800-654-SPAN;**
- **Help the family get health advocacy support from SPAN's Family to Family Health Information Center, 800-654-SPAN or the Community Health Law Project, 888-838-3180.**