

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Ages 21 and Older

Guide and What You Need to Know

Connecticut's Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder

2/21/2019

A quick reference checklist and guide for parents and/or caretakers of a child with Autism.

Connecticut's Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services



Ages 21 and Older

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CAC/NC Revised 2/21/2019

Medical and Related Information

Understand the Current Diagnostic Criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder

The DSM-5 is now the standard reference that healthcare providers use to diagnose mental and behavioral conditions. Understand the current diagnostic criteria for ASD by visiting Autism Speaks website at <https://www.autismspeaks.org/dsm-5-criteria>

Learn about Evidenced-based Practices and Therapies

The EBP is an intervention and instructional practices or programs having scientific evidence that shows that they are effective. To know more please visit the **Organization For Autism Research** website at <https://researchautism.org/use-of-evidence-based-practices/>.

Visit the **The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder** website at <https://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/evidence-based-practices> to select an Evidence Based Practice module which provides an overview and general description, step-by-step instruction of implementation, an implementation checklist, and the evidence-base which includes the list of references that demonstrate the practice meets the NPDC's criteria.

Getting Evaluated for Autism as an Adult

Autism Speaks provides an article for individuals looking for an autism diagnoses as an adult. Finding someone qualified to evaluate an adult with ASD are few. Autism Speaks provides information for adults who believe they are on the spectrum <https://www.autismspeaks.org/expert-opinion/getting-evaluated-autism-adult-where-go-who-see>. You can download an Autism guide for adults at <https://www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/it-autism-and-if-so-what-next-guide-adults>

Autism Speaks has made available a self-assessment questionnaire for adults who believe they may have autism. This test itself cannot diagnose autism since the questionnaire only explores repetitive and restrictive behaviors which are just one of many symptoms of autism. Someone who learns they may have repetitive and/or restrictive behaviors may be prompted to get help <https://www.autismspeaks.org/science-news/researchers-develop-first-autism-symptom-self-assessment-adults>

Since there are few clinicians who specialize in evaluating and treating adults with autism, try contacting:

- Developmental pediatrician
- Child psychiatrist
- Pediatric Neurologist
- Neuropsychologist

Explore Behavioral Supports if Necessary

People with Autism may display behaviors that are challenging to understand or manage. **Autism Speaks** offers *The Challenging Behaviors Tool Kit* which provides strategies and resources to address challenging behaviors and help support you during difficult times. To download a FREE toolkit, visit <https://www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/challenging-behaviors-tool-kit>

For additional support consider:

Clinical Behavioral Supports- Services that assist natural support persons and/or paid support staff in carrying out individual support plans, which are not covered by the Medicaid State Plan, necessary to improve the individual's independence and inclusion in their community. The services include descriptive behavioral assessments including functional analysis, interpretations of the results, development of a behavioral treatment plan, training of support staff and family to carry out the plan, and monitoring of the individual and the provider in the implementation of the plan.

Social Skills Groups- Weekly group sessions of between **4-6** individuals to work on specific social skills. Facilitated by a clinical psychologist.

Job Coaching- Could include work, volunteer and apprenticeship experiences. Includes activities to support:

- Stabilization with job
- Measurement of production, social abilities, essentials and independence at the job
- Job satisfaction
- Social skills training, practice scripts and social autopsy
- Monitoring job performance
- Assessment of interests, strengths and opportunities for employment
- Training in activities to secure and sustain employment: interviewing skills, workplace etiquette, workplace culture, travel training
- Job development
- Task analysis
- Job analysis, natural supports at worksite

Life Skills Coaching- Assist with the acquisition, improvement and/or retention of skills and provide necessary support to achieve personal outcomes that enhance an individual's ability to live in their community as specified in the individual service plan. This service is intended for specific instruction and training in a personal outcome. Provision of the service may be limited to the person's own or family home and/or in their community. This service is expected to coordinate strategies with all other service providers and to adjust strategies as needed. This service may be self-directed or provided through a qualified agency.

Examples include:

- Instruction and training in one or more need areas

- Implementation of strategies to address needs identified in the Individual Service Plan.
- Data collection on target strategies
- Implementation of therapeutic recommendations including speech, communication, social skills, leisure/recreation skills, O.T., P.T.
- Identification and adjustment of strategies as needed
- Ongoing communication with service coordinator and all other service providers pertaining to implementation of strategies.
- Mobility training
- Adaptive communication training
- Provide training or practice in basic consumer skills such as banking, budgeting, and shopping.
- Provide instruction and training in one or more need areas to enhance the person's ability to live independently in their own home, and enhance the individual's ability to access in the community
- Assist the individual to complete daily living activities, or to access the community.
- Periodic telephone or e-mail communication with individual receiving services as specified in plan

Community Mentor- Assistance necessary to meet the individual's day-to-day activity and daily living needs and to reasonably assure adequate support at home and in the community to carry out personal outcomes. Cueing and supervision of activities is included. Examples include:

- Providing social interactions
- Assistance to or supervising the individual with such tasks as light housekeeping, meal preparation, laundry or shopping
- Assistance to access and attend community activities such as accompanying the individual while traveling to activities or helping the individual to access leisure activities.
- May provide some intermittent checking in by telephone call during periods of absence from the caregiver.

Develop a System to Organize Your Paperwork

There are numerous non-related autism organizations and websites providing useful information related to records management. There may not be too many things more frustrating than looking for an important health document or a school record from a few years ago. When the need presents itself, be prepared by developing a system of organizing your documents that works for you.

The Balance Careers offers tips on organizing the most important documents you possess such as home and property records, auto records, health records, financial records, electronics, and personal records. Visit <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/how-to-organize-your-paperwork-3544878>

Busy Creating Memories offers ideas and a guide of materials you can use and documents you might want to save in an article titled "*The Best Way to Organize Important Papers & Documents*" <https://busycreatingmemories.com/organize-important-papers/>

Assistive Technology

Learn about Assistive Technology Devices and Adaptations

Assistive technologies can be used to support and enhance communication for people with autism with or without speech impairments. **Autism Speaks** offers an **Assistive Technology for Communication Roadmap** to help individuals learn how to start using assistive technologies for communication <https://www.autismspeaks.org/worksheet/assistive-technology-communication-roadmap> or call the Autism Response Team at 1-888-288-4762.

NEAT Marketplace (New England Assistive Technology Center)- Provides information, assistive technology assessments, instruction and demonstration of the latest adaptive equipment www.neatmarketplace.org

Assistive Technology Corner at State Education Resource Center (SERC)- Displays of low, mid and high tech AT devices Contact them at 860-632-1485 x4 or library@ct.serc.org

Connecticut Assistive Technology Guidelines- Guidelines for considering, implementing, and evaluating assistive technologies from low- to high-tech www.ct.gov/sde Link "Forms and Publications">Publications

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Connecting Young Kids (YAACK)- Provides information and guidance to families and professionals, covering a wide range of topics dealing with AAC for children at various ages and stages of communicating abilities http://www.childdevelopmentprograms.ca/resource_category/augmentative-and-alternative-communication/

Center on Technology and Disability- Assists families and professionals in advocating, acquiring and implementing effective assistive and instructional technology practices, devices and services as well as offers an extensive library and an interactive learning center www.ctdinstitute.org

Explore Financial Assistance for Assistive Technology

Aid for Autistic Children & Families- If you need help paying for autism related hospital bills, therapies, early intervention, adult late intervention or any obstructive debt resulting from decisions made in an effort to structure one's life routine around care for an autistic child or loved one. <http://www.aacfinc.org/contact.html>

Autism Care Today- Provides financial assistance for services that the person would otherwise not be able to afford. Areas of support include but are not limited to: ABA Therapy, Assistive Technology, Medical Testing & Treatments, Speech and Occupational Therapy, Safety Equipment, Summer and Social Programs, and Quality of Life Supports <http://www.act-today.org/our-funds/autism-care-today/>

Autism Family Resource Grants- One-time \$500 grants are awarded to families in financial need; household income may not exceed \$50,000 per year. All funds awarded are paid directly to the vendor

or service provider to pay for therapy equipment, safety equipment or services. Email requests for an application along with name, address, phone number and email address to:

info@autismfamilyresources.org

Jaden's Voice- Provides funding to families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Our assistance supports a family's immediate expenses related to the well-being of the family member diagnosed with autism on a case-by-case basis. Examples include: effective treatments, assessments, adults who are actively looking for employment or need additional supports, graduate minority students specializing in autism in the areas of speech, behavior or occupational therapy, parent groups, etc.

<http://jadensvoice.org/jadens-voice-cares-grant-program/>

Medic Alert Foundation- Autism Medical IDS & 24/7 wandering support services

<https://www.medicalert.org/autism#importance-of-autism-wandering-support-services> or

1.800.432.5378

National Autism Association- Provide Communication devices to individuals with autism who are non-verbal or minimally verbal, and whose communication challenges put them at increased risk of injury or harm <http://nationalautismassociation.org/family-support/programs/naas-give-a-voice-program/>

Organization for Autism Research- provides a tool kit and assist with fundraising for services needed. 1-866-366-9710

Pervis Jackson Jr Autism Foundation- Pervis Jackson Jr Autism Foundation helps needy parents of children with disabilities to get respite or other support services. Grants can be used for Camp Sessions, Respite of Parent's Choice, Cleaning Help, Cooking Help, Spa Day, Urgent Bills, and Other Parent Needs

www.pjjraf.org

Education

Apply to the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)

The **Bureau of Rehabilitation Services** assist individuals with physical and/or mental disabilities prepare for, find, and maintain employment.

Vocational Rehabilitation Program—Department of Rehabilitation Services provides vocational services to people with disabilities to help them prepare for, find, and keep employment. Services may include:

- Vocational counseling
- Job search assistance
- On the job training in business and industry
- Skills training and career education in vocational and other schools
- Assistive technology services
- Vehicle and home modifications

- Supported employment services
- Services to assist in restoring or improving a physical or mental condition
- Services to support an employment plan, such as transportation.

If you receive SSI or SSDI, you can speak with a Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) at BRS to discuss how employment will affect your benefits. You may be able to work and still receive benefits depending on your earnings. You can contact the closest BRS office to you and request to speak with a Benefits Specialist:

Greater Hartford and Willimantic: (860) 723-1400;
 Greater New Britain and Meriden (860) 612-3569;
 Greater New Haven and Middletown (203) 974-3000;
 Greater New London and Norwich (860) 439-7686;
 Fairfield County and Danbury (203) 551-5500;
 Greater Waterbury and Torrington (203) 578-4550.
 Spanish-speaking Benefits Specialists are available.

Connect-Ability- Statewide initiative connects Connecticut employers with people with disabilities who seek employment. The initiative's mission is to help employers focus on a person's abilities, not his/her disabilities. Also available on the website are free online e-learning trainings for job seekers with disabilities. Trainings include financial literacy, soft skills training and employment readiness.

Driver Training Program- Program is for any qualified permanent Connecticut resident who requires special equipment in order to operate a motor vehicle.

Requirements

You may be eligible for the Driver Training Program (DTP) if you:

- Are a permanent Connecticut resident;
- Have a **physical disability** which requires special equipment to operate a motor vehicle;
- Received medical clearance from the DMV Driver Services Division
- Have a [valid license or, if you are a new driver, have a valid Learner's Permit](#);
- Complied with the [DMV](#) identification, residency, vision screening, knowledge testing and driver education requirements; and
- Are able to independently transfer from your wheelchair (if you use one) to the driver's seat of the DTP training vehicle. Or, we will provide the training in your own specially-equipped vehicle that has already been modified to accommodate your wheelchair. All vehicles used for training shall be properly registered, insured, and equipped with an instructor's brake.

SPECIAL NOTE: If you need accommodations **OTHER THAN** for a physical disability to obtain a driver's license, [contact the DMV for assistance](#).

The Independent Living Program- The Bureau's Independent Living (IL) program provides comprehensive independent living services, through contracts with Connecticut's five community-based independent living centers (ILCs). These centers promote empowerment and self-reliance for persons with disabilities. There are four core services provided by an independent living center: Peer support, Information and Referral, individual and systems advocacy, and independent living skills training.

For more information visit <https://www.ct.gov/brs/site/default.asp>

Explore Postsecondary Education Options

“Navigating College -A Project of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network”-A free downloadable guide offering a step-by-step look at college life for those with ASD <http://www.navigatingcollege.org/>

Organization for Autism Research- has a publication titled *Finding Your Way: A College Guide for Students on the Spectrum* is intended to help students with ASD become better prepared for college life and academics <https://researchautism.org/findingyourway/>

Autism Speaks- provides a postsecondary opportunities guide to help individuals with autism and their families explore different opportunities and learning environment after leaving high school <https://www.autismspeaks.org/postsecondary-education>

Centers for Independent Living- The Bureau's Independent Living (IL) program provides comprehensive independent living services, through contracts with Connecticut's five community-based independent living centers (ILCs). These centers promote empowerment and self-reliance for persons with disabilities. There are four core services provided by an independent living center: Peer support, Information and Referral, individual and systems advocacy, independent living skills training

- Access Independence, <http://accessinct.org/>
- Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut, <http://www.dnec.org/>;
- Center for Disability Rights, <http://cdr-ct.org/>;
- Independence Northwest, <http://www.independencenorthwest.org/>
- Independence Unlimited, <http://independenceunlimited.org/>

American Job Corps- Job Corps is a federal residential education and job training program for at-risk young men and women, ages 16 through 24. Job Corps is a public-private partnership administered by the United States Department of Labor. The program provides disadvantaged young people with academic, vocational and social skills training they need to gain independence and get quality, long-term jobs or further their education. **For further information, contact the Connecticut Job Corps Centers in Connecticut:** <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/jobcorps/index.html>

SOURCE: 211 eLibrary website <https://uwc.211ct.org/job-corps/>

Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA)- WIOA authorizes career services, job training and education programs and services for eligible youth and adults. Key components of this reform include streamlining services through a One-Stop service delivery system, through the Connecticut Department of Labor, [American Job Center's](#), empowering individuals through information and access to training resources through partnerships with state, regional and local organizations to promote a universal approach to providing effective workforce assistance to job seekers and businesses.

SOURCE: 211 eLibrary website <https://uwc.211ct.org/workforce-investment-act-wia/>

Supported Employment- Supported employment programs help people with disabilities to find and keep employment in the competitive labor force. Community based organizations such as local ARCs (Associations for Retarded Citizens), Goodwill Industries, the Mental Health Association of Connecticut and the Connecticut Institute for the Blind provide supported employment services as well as other vocational supports. Services are provided at no cost to people with disabilities who receive services through one of the state agencies listed below. Must have a disability that results in a significant barrier to employment and must need support services to find and retain employment in the competitive labor force. For needs assessment and linkage to appropriate vocational rehabilitation programs, contact one of the following state agencies:

- [Bureau of Rehabilitation Services \(BRS\)](#)
- [Board of Education and Services for the Blind \(BESB\)](#)
- [Department of Rehabilitative Services \(DORS\)](#)

SOURCE: 211 eLibrary website <https://uwc.211ct.org/supported-employment/>

Vocational Rehabilitation- refer to page 8 '[Apply to the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services \(BRS\)](#)'

Employment

Develop Employment Skills and Make Sure your Young Adult has Employment Experiences, Either Paid or Volunteer

The **State of Connecticut Department of Rehabilitation Services** has the Connect-Ability program and offers information, tools and technical assistance to job seekers as well as e-learning modules on skills related to accessing employment www.ct.gov/connect-ability or call 1-866-844-1903

Autism Speaks provides an employment tool kit to help with researching, finding and keeping employment <https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/Employment%20Tool%20Kit.pdf>

United Way of Connecticut 2-1-1 Infoline has an extensive database which lists agencies offering volunteer opportunities, summer job opportunities, and job training programs throughout the state 2-1-1 (1-800-203-1234) or www.211ct.org

Obtain Resources that Includes a List of Skills and Competencies

Connecticut Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services – has on its website a life skills inventory checklist which allows individuals to grade their level of knowledge and function for the following categories: personal care, health care, food management, housekeeping, household maintenance, money management/banking, community safety, transportation, phone use, internet use, time management, career/employment, community skills/resources, leisure skills, legal issues, social skills, and health relationships https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DSS/Health-and-Home-Care/Autism-Spectrum-Disorder/Lifeskills_Inventory.pdf?la=en. This will allow individuals to be self-aware of strengths and areas in need of improvement.

The Connecticut Department of Labor – provides tips for job seekers on finding a job with skills they already have. This information can be used to assist individuals with creating a list of skills they currently have <https://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/progsupt/jobsvrce/skills.htm>

Autism Spectrum Australia- Provides a list of skills for the workplace and tips on how to improve these skills <http://www.autismlaunchpad.org.au/work/workplace-skills/>

Learn About “Soft Skills” needed for Employment (i.e. being on time, dressing appropriately, taking directions)

Monster provides information about soft skills to help an individual’s career <https://www.monster.com/career-advice/article/soft-skills-you-need>

Careerbuilder provides helpful tips about what to wear to an interview <https://www.careerbuilder.com/advice/what-to-wear-for-different-job-interviews-based-on-the-company>

Autism Spectrum Australia website has a list of skills for the workplace thought to be important and tips on how to improve these skills <http://www.autismlaunchpad.org.au/work/workplace-skills/>

Car Autism Roadmap- So you have been called about a job you applied for. What next? This website provides helpful tips to prepare for the interview <https://www.carautismroadmap.org/preparing-for-a-job-interview/>

Create a Resume that includes a list of Skills and Competencies

Organization for Autism Research- provides tips on writing a resume in an article titled ‘Writing a Resume- Where to Begin?’ Also provides samples of a resume and a link to view a step-by-step breakdown of a resume <https://researchautism.org/writing-a-resume-where-to-begin/>

Careerbuilder provides an Article titled 'Effective strategies for job seekers with autism'. Article provides tips on including skills within the resume that match the company goals and shows how your skills will benefit the company <https://www.careerbuilder.com/advice/effective-strategies-for-job-seekers-with-autism>

Autism Speaks has a downloadable 'Employment Toolkit' that provides employment information for individuals with ASD including information on completing resumes, cover letters and applications <https://www.autismspeaks.org/employment>

Explore Employment Services and Opportunities

Autism Speaks provides an Employment tool kit for job seekers with autism. Provided within the packet are topics ranging from self-advocacy to your employment rights or job interviewing techniques to creating your cover letter <https://www.autismspeaks.org/job-seekers-autism>

TheSpectrumCareers.com A tool for job seekers with Autism and the business community <https://www.thespectrumcareers.com/>

Job Accommodation Network (JAN) offers free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues <https://askjan.org/>

You can refer to page 10 'Explore Postsecondary Education Options'

State of Connecticut Department of Rehabilitation Services Connect-Ability program is a statewide initiative connecting Connecticut employers with people with disabilities. Also available on the website are free online e-learning trainings for job seekers with disabilities. Trainings include financial literacy, soft skills training and employment readiness. Call 203-578-4550 or <http://www.ct.gov/connect-ability/site/default.asp>

The following table lists employers who hire individuals with disabilities with some specifically hiring individuals with autism.

Autism Friendly Employers	
Website and Service Description	Autism Friendly Employer
<p>Autism @ Work Employer Roundtable- A collection of cross industry employers leading specific autism hiring initiatives, and have seen significant benefits for own inclusive cultures and for people with autism. https://disabilityin.org/what-we-do/autism-employer-roundtable/</p>	<p>Visit website</p>

<p>Autism @ Work Employer Roundtable- a simple way for candidates to see the type of roles and skill sets we are hiring for and how to apply to each company. The roles listed are all based in the US and at various locations per company. The roles and skills noted below are some of the most common jobs and skills our companies are hiring for, but the list is not intended to be comprehensive of every possible role. https://sway.office.com/lg7Bf55MlfpA9zD9?loc=swsp</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦Microsoft ◦SAP ◦DXC Technology ◦JPMorgan Chase ◦EY ◦Ford ◦Freddie Mac ◦Travelers Insurance ◦Rising Tide Car Wash ◦Spectrum Designs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Walgreens •Willis Towers Watson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bank of America •Capital One •Google •Dell EMC •Computer Aid Inc. (CAI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •AMC Theatres •Hart Schaffner Marx •Kinaxis •The Home Depot •Lowe's •SAS •And more, visit the website
<p>Autism Speaks (ADVICE) an initiative founded by Autism Speaks and NEXT for Autism. https://www.autismspeaks.org/job-seekers-autism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦Cintas ◦Staples ◦Quest Diagnostics ◦Amazon
<p>Getting Hired- a web tool used to assist individuals with disabilities find employment. https://www.gettinghired.com/</p>	<p>United States</p>
<p>Dept of Rehabilitation Services (Connect-Ability) -Statewide initiative connects Connecticut employers with people with disabilities who seek employment. The initiative's mission is to help employers focus on a person's abilities, not his/her disabilities. Also available on the website are free online e-learning trainings for job seekers with disabilities. Trainings include financial literacy, soft skills training and employment readiness. 860-424-4844 or https://www.211ct.org/search/44620406</p>	<p>Connecticut</p>
<p>TheSpectrum.com- A tool for job seekers with autism and the business community. https://www.thespectrumcareers.com/</p>	<p>United States</p>

Explore Volunteer Opportunities

United Way of Connecticut 2-1-1 Infoline has an extensive database which lists agencies offering volunteer opportunities throughout the state 2-1-1 (1-800-203-1234) or www.211ct.org

Although the following article explains why teens may benefit from volunteering by gaining work readiness skills, the experience one gains from volunteering can be applied across the lifespan. Read the following article from the **Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital** website at <https://www.hopkinsallchildrens.org/ACH-News/General-News/Volunteering-Helps-Teens-with-Autism-Spectrum-Diso>

Make a Decision About Disclosure of Diagnoses

It's no secret individuals with autism view, experience, and process the world around them differently than their peers without autism. The disclosure of an autism diagnoses may be beneficial for certain workplace accommodations but can also negatively impact you since there are many stereotypes and biases lingering within today's society.

Car Autism Roadmap – offers an article titled '*To Tell or Not to Tell: Issues of Disclosure in the Workplace*'. Article discusses the pros and cons of disclosing your autism diagnoses. <https://www.carautismroadmap.org/to-tell-or-not-to-tell-issues-of-disclosure-in-the-workplace/?print=pdf>

Life Skills

Be Aware of Personal Hygiene and Healthcare Needs

Ambitious About Autism- Article providing information related to hygiene and things to consider when its regarding an individual with autism <https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/understanding-autism/health/hygiene>

Adulting with Autism – does provide an article of someone's personal experiences and tips to brushing and showering <http://adultingwithautism.com/why-i-struggle-with-teeth-brushing-and-showering>

Learn about Money Management Skills

The Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation in conjunction with Widener University created a guide related to money management titled "*Cents and Sensibility: A guide to money management for people with disabilities*" <https://fliconline.org/documents/patffinancialeducationbooklet-final.pdf>

Learn how to Manage Simple Daily Living Activities (i.e. operating microwave, doing laundry, cleaning)

Talking About Curing Autism- has a guide on how to break down and teach different chores by age group <https://tacanow.org/family-resources/developing-lifeskills-chores/>

Safety

Understand Internet and Technology Safety

Center on Secondary Education for Students with ASD- provides an article titled 'Internet Safety for Teens with ASD' which provides information on internet safety and cyberbullying. Some of the following information can be applied to adults on the spectrum

<https://csesa.fpg.unc.edu/sites/csesa.fpg.unc.edu/files/Internet%20Safety%20for%20Adolescents%20with%20Autism.pdf>

Raisingchild.net.au- provides videos which discuss a wide range of topics related to bullying and cyberbullying <https://raisingchildren.net.au/teens/videos>

Virginia Department of Education Center on Transition- has published an article title '*Promoting Internet Safety Among Users with Autism Spectrum Disorders*'. Discusses the factors and risks associated with internet use and tips on how to provide instruction

<https://centerontransition.org/publications/download.cfm?id=34>

Understand Community and Relationship Safety

The **Organization For Autism Research** – A guide composed from parents, first responders, educators, and community members, who shared their strategies and resources to address safety threats that commonly arise during childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. This autism safety resource will educate parents about how to prevent and mitigate emergency events, safety threats that may affect their child in the future, and how to teach safety habits that will build a foundation for safety in adulthood

<https://researchautism.org/resources/a-guide-to-safety/>

Social

Learn Appropriate Social Skills

Autism Speaks- provides information about social skills, what social skills consist of, the importance of social skills, and some tips on building social skills. Offers a directory of *social skills programs* in your community. <https://www.autismspeaks.org/social-skills-and-autism>

To obtain a listing of *DSS Approved Autism providers* offering life/social skills coaching, you may contact an Autism Support and Resource Specialist at 860-424-5677 or 860-424-5567.

Learn about Sexuality and Relationships

Autism Research Institute- website has an article providing information related to socialization of sexuality which can provide the foundation for sexual identity

https://www.autism.com/understanding_social_sexual

Participate in Recreational and Leisure Activities

The **Connecticut Still Revolutionary** website provides a listing of statewide activities held each week for individuals and families of all ages

http://www.ctvisit.com/?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=Paid_Search&utm_content=Winter2019&utm_campaign=Brand&gclid=EAlaIqObChMlyYfm-bal4AIVDK_ICh2irwqwEAYASAAEgJijfD_BwE

Autistic and Unapologetic- offers ideas for 20 hobbies, activities and sports that are ideal for individuals with autism <https://autisticandunapologetic.com/2018/01/27/20-ideal-hobbies-activities-and-sports-for-people-with-autism/>

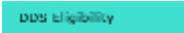
Funding for Services and Legal Issues

Apply to the Department of Social Services Division of Autism Spectrum Services

Visit www.ct.gov/dds (Eligibility is still determined through the Department of Developmental Services).

- Left hand side select 'Divisions' > DSS Autism Spectrum Services (This is at DSS) > Eligibility > scroll down and select 'Please Follow this link for eligibility application'
- Or
- From the DDS homepage www.ct.gov/dds- Left hand side select 'Families' > select the



- 'Early Childhood' icon > select the DDS Eligibility box  > then select Application for Someone with Autism and NO Intellectual Disability over the age of 3 > select 'Autism Eligibility > Application'
- Application for Someone with Autism and NO Intellectual Disability over the age of 3 > select 'Autism Eligibility > Application'

Understand What it Means to move from Entitlement to Eligibility

According to The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), once your child either earns a high school diploma or a Certificate of Program Completion, this means that public education is now complete. Your child has transitioned from the stage of Entitlement to the stage of Eligibility.

Pathfinders for Autism website contains information related to Entitlement vs. Eligibility

<https://pathfindersforautism.org/articles/maryland-services/the-dilemma-of-entitlement-vs-eligibility/>

Apply for Social Security benefits

Cash payments for low income older adults, ages 65+, or for people with a physical or mental impairment expected to last at least 1 year or to result in death, are made to assure an income. Low birth weight infants weighing less than 1200 grams (2 pounds 10 ounces) at birth may be eligible for presumptive disability payments. Up to 6 months of PD payments may be made to an infant who is age 6 months or younger at the time of the PD finding and whose birth certificate or other evidence indicates a birth weight of less than 1200 grams. Call 1-877-405-4874 or visit www.ssa.gov

SOURCE: UWC 211 Website

You can apply online at <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/>. Once you finish the online process, a Social Security representative will contact you for any additional information needed for the applications. You can also call 1-877-405-4874.

Apply for Medicaid at your Local Department of Social Services

Medicaid is a wide-ranging health insurance program for low-income individuals of all ages. Jointly funded by the state and federal government, it provides health coverage for various groups of Connecticut residents, including pregnant women, parents and caretaker relatives, adults with no dependent children, disabled individuals, and seniors. However, this page is focused strictly on Medicaid eligibility for Connecticut elders, aged 65 and over, and specifically for long term care, whether that be at home, in an adult foster care home, in a nursing home, or in an assisted living facility.

Medicaid in Connecticut is also called HUSKY Health, and Medicaid for state residents who are aged, blind & disabled is called HUSKY C.

SOURCE: American Council on Aging <https://www.medicaidplanningassistance.org/medicaid-eligibility-connecticut>

- Households and individuals who wish to apply for or renew health coverage for children (HUSKY A & B); parents with dependent children (HUSKY A); caretakers/guardians of minor children (HUSKY A); pregnant women (HUSKY A); and adults under 65 **without** dependent children (HUSKY D), can apply online at www.accesshealthct.com or call 1-855-805-4325.
- Households and individuals who are over 65 and older, blind or with disability and wish to apply for or renew Medicaid (HUSKY C) or Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (MED-Connect) can apply online at www.connect.ct.gov, under 'Apply for Benefits' or by calling the DSS Client Information and Benefits Center Line 1-855-626-6632.

Apply for Community First Choice (if Applicable)

State community care supported program offered to active Medicaid and eligible Medicare members as part of the Affordable Care Act, assists individuals to receive Personal Attendant Care (PCA) supports and services in their home. Community First Choice (CFC) services can include, but not limited to, assistance with activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, transferring, etc.), meal planning and preparation, shopping for food, clothing, and other essential items, and performing essential household chores. Program will cover eligible individuals in residential settings including individual homes, apartment buildings, retirement homes, and group living environments that meet Community First Choice Residential Criteria. You can apply online at <http://ctmfp.com> or call 1-888-992-8637

SOURCE: 211 UWC website <https://www.211ct.org/search/27883189>

Explore Insurance Coverage for Autism Services up to the Age of 21

Autism Speaks Initiative provides answers to frequently asked questions about the Autism Insurance Reform Law and what you need to know http://advocacy.autismspeaks.org/atf/cf/%7B2A179B73-96E2-44C3-8816-1B1COBE5334B%7D/Connecticut_FAQs.pdf

Beacon Health Options (1-877-552-8247) offers clinical mental health and substance use disorder management, a comprehensive employee assistance program, work/life support, specialty programs for autism and depression, and insightful analytics to improve the delivery of care. Beacon manages the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) benefits for Medicaid beneficiaries who have Husky A, C, and D and are under age 21. A feature of the program provides access to a Beacon Peer Specialist and Care Coordinators to assist with explaining benefits covered under Medicaid, helping families navigate the health care system, and coordinating non-traditional services

<https://www.beaconhealthoptions.com/who-we-are/>

Direct Questions Regarding ASD Insurance Issues to the Office of the Healthcare Advocate

Office of the Healthcare Advocate (1-866-466-4446) Provides assistance with selecting health insurance coverage. Agency will answer questions about health insurance issues, including, but not limited to, enrollment/eligibility issues, clarification of plan benefits, plan benefit limitations, and out-of-network services www.ct.gov/oha

Explore the Legal Implications of Reaching Age 18 (Conservatorship)

The age at which an individual is considered legally an adult, or “age of majority”, in most states is 18.

SOURCE: CGS Sec. 1-1d https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_001.htm#sec_1-1d

This means individuals in the State of Connecticut are old enough to be considered legally capable of making personal and financial decisions. Individuals with autism, however, may be unable to direct his

or her own personal affairs and/or financial decisions, therefore, matters related to their safety, health, and finances are of concern.

A **conservator** is a person appointed by the probate court to oversee the financial or personal affairs of an adult determined to be incapable of managing his or her own affairs or unable to care for himself or herself. There are two basic types of conservatorships:

- A **conservator of the person** is appointed to supervise the personal affairs of an individual who is found by the court to be unable, even with appropriate assistance, to meet essential requirements for personal needs. These needs may include, but are not limited to, the need for food, clothing, shelter, health care, and safety.
- A **conservator of the estate** is appointed to supervise the financial affairs of an individual who is found by the court to be incapable of doing so himself to the extent that property will be wasted unless adequate property management is provided. This may include, but is not limited to, actions to obtain and manage assets, income and public assistance benefits.
- A person may be in need of one or both types of conservators. Two separate individuals may perform these two roles, or one person may serve in both capacities. A conservator of the estate or person may be an individual, a legally authorized municipal or state official, or a private or nonprofit corporation. However, hospitals and nursing homes cannot be appointed conservators of either the person or the estate, and banks cannot be appointed conservators of the person.

SOURCE: UWC 211 eLibrary <https://uwc.211ct.org/conservator-of-estate-conservator-of-person/>

To become a conservator, please visit the **Connecticut Probate Courts** website at <http://www.ctprobate.gov/Pages/Conservatorships.aspx>

Learn about Life Planning Tools

ABLE National Resource Center- Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account - ABLE Accounts, which are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities and their families, were created as a result of the passage of the Stephen Beck Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 or better known as the ABLE Act. The beneficiary of the account is the account owner, and income earned by the accounts will not be taxed. Contributions to the account, which can be made by any person (the account beneficiary, family and friends), must be made using post-taxed dollars and will not be tax deductible for purposes of federal taxes, however some states may allow for state income tax deductions for contribution made to an ABLE account <http://www.ablenrc.org/about/what-are-able-accounts>

Special Needs Trust (SNT's) are well-established savings tools that also protect eligibility for public programs <https://www.specialneedsalliance.org/able-accounts-and-snts-how-to-choose/>

Develop a System to Organize Financial and Legal Records

Pathfinders for Autism- offers a guide to organizing your paperwork

<http://pathfindersforautism.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/A-Guide-to-Organizing-Your-Paperwork.pdf>

The Balance Careers website contains an article providing tips to organizing different types of important documents into categories. Read the article titled '*How to Organize Your Paperwork: How to find important records quickly and easily*'.

Support

Network with Others at Support Groups

Connecticut Family Support Network (CTFSN) - Parent-to-parent organization offering support groups, training, email list serve, information and advocacy www.ctfsn.org

Autism Services and Resources Connecticut (ASRC)- Provides advocacy and support groups, recreational and social opportunities, trainings, newsletter, and information www.ct-asrc.org

For a more comprehensive listing of information related to *Support Groups*, please contact the DSS Autism Unit and speak with an Autism Support and Resource Specialist by calling Nathaniel Calixto, 860-424-5677, or Cathleen Calaway, 860-424-5567 or visit the DSS Autism website

<https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Autism-Spectrum-Disorder---ASD/Autism-Spectrum-Disorder---ASD>

Investigate Support Groups for Adults

Support Groups- Adults			
Organization	Service Description	Contact/Website	Service Area
Advocacy Academy	Helping parents learn skills to appropriately advocate for their families. Spanish Community of Wallingford	203-535-4804	Wallingford and Connecticut
Aid for Autistic Children & Families	if you need help paying for autism related hospital bills, therapies, early intervention, adult late intervention or any obstructive debt resulting from decisions made in an effort to structure one's life routine around care for an autistic child or loved one.	http://www.aacfinc.org/contact.html	United States
Autism Families Connecticut	Organized by fathers of children with autism, Dads meet periodically throughout the year at restaurants in the Hartford/West Hartford region. A core group of Dads act as hosts, providing understanding and support to fathers who face daily challenges raising children with autism.	http://www.autismfamiliesct.org/events/	Connecticut

Autism Families Connecticut	Organized by mothers of children with autism, Moms' Nights are held throughout the year at a variety of locations in the Hartford/West Hartford region. Events range from dinner out to yoga and are designed to give Moms a place to connect with other mothers who face similar challenges raising children on the spectrum.	http://www.autismfamiliesct.org/events/	Connecticut
Autism Family Resource Grants	One-time \$500 grants are awarded to families in financial need; household income may not exceed \$50,000 per year. All funds awarded are paid directly to the vendor or service provider to pay for therapy equipment, safety equipment or services. Email requests for an application along with name, address, phone number and email address to: info@autismfamilyresources.org	info@autismfamilyresources.org	United States
Autism Services & Resources Connecticut (ASRC)	Support groups for adults and teens with Autism Spectrum Disorders meets monthly (in Wallingford and Middletown)	203-265-7717 or www.ct-asrc.org	middlesex county, new haven county
Autism Speaks	Grief and Bereavement Resources- Resources to help support you or your child while experiencing grief	https://www.autismspeaks.org/grief-and-bereavement-resources	n/a
Autism Speaks	Offers tips and guidance to parents and caregivers related to identifying and/or creating a support system after a child has been diagnosed with Autism	https://www.autismspeaks.org/autism-and-your-family	Connecticut
BOW Parent Initiative	A parent Support group. Evenings, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Woodbridge CT	Diane Downey, 203-376-5119	Woodbridge and Connecticut

Center for Disability Rights	Cross-disability support group offers speakers, group discussions, raps and other social activities for people regardless of age or type of disability. Meeting times vary monthly, call for dates and time. Occasionally the group has outings or field trips to Disability Expos or other cultural events.	203-934-7077 ext. 12	ansonia, clinton, durham, essex, haddam, bethany, cromwell, north haven, orange, middlefield, old lyme, seymour, branford, derby, guilford, killingworth, middletown, milford, east haven, west haven, woodbridge, east hampton, north branford, old saybrook, portland, southington, chester, madison, deep river, east haddam, meriden, westbrook, centerbrook, cobalt, higganum, ivoryton, middle haddam, moodus, rockfall, northford, hadlyme, south lyme, lyme, hamden, new haven, wallingford
Circle of Moms	Provides support to young mothers who are in need of friendship, support, guidance, connection to resources, and prosocial family focused activities. Contact facilitator for information. Bev's Corner, 3 Elm Street, Rockville, CT/li>	Laura Corlis & Vicki White, 860-221-4856	East of the River and Connecticut
Community Centers, Inc.	Support groups for young people and adults with developmental disabilities offer peer support, counseling and socialization.	203-869-1276	cos cob, old greenwich, riverside, greenwich
Connecticut Family Support Network (CTFSN)	parent-to-parent organization offering support groups , training, email list serve, information and advocacy. Through parent groups that are meeting regularly across the state, parents are able to connect with others in their community who have children with similar or related issues, hear valuable speakers/presentations, attend a local workshop or gather information that is helpful to their child and family.	1-877 376-2329 http://www.ctfsn.org/	Connecticut

Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC)	Support groups for parents and families of children with special needs can be an excellent source of information, resources and of course, support. CPAC helps connect parents to groups in their area. View the links for information about finding a support group in your area or starting a parent support group.	http://www.cpacinc.org/helpful-resources/parent-support/	Connecticut
CT Families for Effective Autism Treatment (CT FEAT)	An online forum where many hundreds of Connecticut families share information and support.	http://www.ctfeat.org/listservrules.htm	Connecticut
Destiny Outreach	This is a group for parents who want to network and make effective changes within their community. 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month from 4-6 p.m. East Hartford Cultural Center, East Hartford, CT	860-726-3646	East Hartford and Connecticut
Family Advocacy Program (FAVOR)	The Family Peer Support Program provides direct peer support services to families with children who have medical, mental, or behavioral health challenges. Our Family Peer Support Specialists assist families who need to navigate the special education and mental health care service systems	860-563-3232 or www.favor-ct.org	Wethersfield, Connecticut
Family Friendly Event	Provides support to families of children with special needs as well as their typical siblings by providing monthly opportunities for free outings. Every 3rd Friday evening or Saturday of the month. UCFS, 34 East Town Street, Norwich, CT 06360	Susan Hostnik, 860-822-4335 & Christie Beausoleil, 860-861-1100	South east and Connecticut
Inspiration	This is a group that provides support and encourages caregivers who have children and/or youth with behavioral, social, communication, or health challenges. They also empower, inspire and educate families to see beyond the diagnosis and see the possibilities and potential each family unit embodies. 3rd Tuesday of every month from 5:30-8 p.m. Meriden Public Library, 105 Miller Street, Meriden, CT	203-535-4804	Meriden, Wallingford and Connecticut
Institute of Living	Offers various support groups such as substance abuse education, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender support, Autism Spectrum support, Mental Illness support, support services, and resources. Support programs are provided for those in need, their family members, and caregivers. Visit the website below for a complete list of support group locations, times and contact information.	860-545-7665	Hartford

It takes a Village	A support group for grandparents raising children with behavioral health challenges. First Tuesday of the month 11-12 p.m. 233 Retreat Avenue, Hartford, CT	Raleigh Leggett, 860-639-6752	Hartford, West Hartford, and Connecticut
Kennedy Center Autism Project	Thursdays 6—8 p.m. For Ages 22—30s A fun social activity for young adults with Asperger's or High Autism. Meet new people while learning and practicing social and functional skills. The cost for this program is \$205. Drop-ins welcome, \$25 per day. The group meets at 4021 Main Street, Stratford, and will run January 12 through March 9.	203-908-3916 or http://www.thekennedycenterinc.org/	bridgeport, easton, monroe, stratford, trumbull, fairfield
NCCC Parent Support Group	This group helps parents whose lives have been touched by children with behavioral, social, anxiety, attention, communication and mental health challenges. 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6-8 p.m. Suffield High School, 1060 Sheldon St, Room 221, Suffield, CT	Contact Dorian Vicedomini at dmv35@aol.com or Diane Reynolds at sbdreynolds@cox.net	Suffield and Connecticut
NCCC Recreational Activity Group	This group is for families whose lives have been touched by children with behavioral, social, anxiety, attention, communication and mental health challenges.	Contact Dorian Vicedomini at dmv35@aol.com or Diane Reynolds at sbdreynolds@cox.net	Connecticut
New Britain Bilingual	Please join us for an opportunity to connect with other parents experiencing similar situations. Share your thoughts, feelings, and ideas for this new group. New Britain Public Library, New Britain, CT.	Tabor Napiello, (860) 793-3551	New Britain and Connecticut
Next Steps 1	Provides parents with a safe, comfortable environment to vent their frustrations, challenges, fears, knowledge and positive experiences with other parents. 4th Tuesday of every month from 6-7:30 p.m. The Summit, Plantsville, CT	Carrie Foligno & Lori Powell, 860-302-6543	Greater Bristol/Farmington Valley and Connecticut
Padres Abriendo Puertas	This is a group for parents of children with special needs. One Sunday per month from 3-5 p.m. Where: Walnut Hill Community Church, 156 Walnut Hill Road, Bethel, CT	Contact: Miozotis Galarza, (203) 240-2467	Greater Danbury and Connecticut

Parents Supporting Families	For parents of children with behavioral health needs. Childcare and refreshments available. 1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month. Waterford Country School Safe Home	Grace Nelson, 860-235-7923 & Josephine Suarez, 860-857-2232	Waterford and Connecticut
Pathfinders for Autism	A Maryland-based website offering "Parent Tips" articles on a variety of topics	https://pathfindersforautism.org/autism-by-age/birth-5/#1485961225396-d9a4a117-920a	n/a
Ready to Go	This group provides workshops to parents of the community in order to prepare them to work in their communities and help other parents facing similar challenges.	Contact: Victor Gonzalez, (860) 520-6201	Hartford/ West Hartford and Connecticut
Stepping stones	Offers tips and guidance to parents and caregivers related to identifying and/or creating a support system after a child has been diagnosed with Autism	https://www.steppingstonesca.com/single-post/2016/11/20/Building-a-support-network-when-dealing-with-ASD	Connecticut
Unidos Sin Fronteras	The idea of the parent support group was formed. The goal of the group is to fulfill the emotional needs of Latino parents as they work through their common challenges. Together they want to form a comfortable environment which one day could be called "family." During the groups meetings they will share experiences, have guest speakers, share resources, and engage in activities for themselves and their families. Second Friday of the month from 12 to 2 p.m	Carla Ambrocio, 203-807-3284 & Maria Rincon, 203-247-9629	Greater Norwalk and Connecticut
Wrong Planet	Wrong Planet is the web community designed for autistic individuals (and parents / professionals of those) with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD, PDDs, and other neurological differences. We provide a discussion forum, where members communicate with each other, an article section, with exclusive articles and how-to guides, a blogging feature, and more.	https://wrongplanet.net/	Connecticut

Identify your Support System

Autism Speaks – Offers tips and guidance to parents and caregivers related to identifying and/or creating a support system after a child has been diagnosed with Autism

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/autism-and-your-family>

Stepping Stones- Webpage has an article providing information on the importance of having a support system and some tips on how to develop one <https://www.steppingstonesca.com/single-post/2016/11/20/Building-a-support-network-when-dealing-with-ASD>

Raisingchildren.net.au- provides some ideas for building supportive relationships with your extended family and friends <https://raisingchildren.net.au/autism/communicating-relationships/family-relationships/family-friends-asd>

Take Care of Yourself, your Spouse and your other Children

Synapse- website offers self-care tips to parents of parents with an autistic child <http://www.autism-help.org/family-autism-self-care-strategies.htm>

Autism Resources and Community (ARC)- website offers parents an article on self-care <http://blog.stageslearning.com/blog/autism-parents-self-care>

The Mighty website has a brief article providing six self-care tips for people on the autism spectrum <https://themighty.com/2018/09/self-care-autism-spectrum/>

Transportation

Explore Transportation Options including Public Transportation, Mobility, and Divers License

The Kennedy Center has a travel guide titled '*A Chance to Ride: Introducing Young Adults with Autism to Independent Travel*'. This guide provides information on introducing travel to individuals with autism, tips for family members to become involved in the process, information regarding communicating in the community, signs and traffic symbols, pedestrian safety, awareness of surroundings, and more. **The Kennedy Center** also provides a listing of national, federal, and local transportation agencies you and your child may be able to access <https://www.thekennedycenterinc.org/what-we-do/programs-services/mobility-services/publications-resources.html>

CTrides is a free program that helps commuters find the best way to get to work or school. We provide resources for choice commuting options throughout Connecticut, including bus, rail, carpools, vanpools, biking, walking, and teleworking <https://ctrides.com/>

TIP: Find a driving school that specializes in providing a comprehensive driver program for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles- for more information on obtaining a learner's permit and to take the test for the driver's license. You can also access the locations where learner's permit testing sites are located and download practice test questions for the learner's permit via app (android, iPhone, iPad)

Obtain a Connecticut Non-Driver Identification Card through the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles

The State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles provides information regarding the eligibility criteria, what to bring, and locations to apply for a non-driver identification card

<https://www.ct.gov/dmv/cwp/view.asp?a=805&q=490078>

Advocacy

Make a Decision About Disclosure of Diagnosis

Disclosure of Autism Diagnosis		
Organization	Service Description	Contact/Website
AASPIRE	Article discusses the potential benefits or drawbacks of disclosing your autism spectrum disorder diagnosis to your doctor, your doctors staff, and you health insurance provider	https://autismandhealth.org/?a=pt&p=detail&t=pt_rts&s=rts_disc&theme=lt&
Ambitious about Autism	Disclosing your diagnosis at work	https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/understanding-autism/disclosing-your-diagnosis-at-work
Asperger/Autism Network (AANE)	Article titled 'It's Not a Secret: Why Disclosure is Important'	https://www.aane.org/not-secret-disclosure-important/

Autism Awareness Centre, Inc.	Article titled 'Who should be told about an autism diagnoses'	https://autismawarenesscentre.com/told-autism-diagnosis/
Autism Speaks	An article that explores the pros and cons of disclosing and not disclosing an autism diagnoses	https://www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit-excerpt/disclose-or-not-disclose
Car Autism RoadMap	Article titled ' To tell or Not to tell: Issues of Disclosure in the Workplace'	https://www.carautismroadmap.org/to-tell-or-not-to-tell-issues-of-disclosure-in-the-workplace/
Interactive Autism Network	Adults with ASD: Deciding When to Disclose	https://iancommunity.org/cs/adults/deciding_when_to_disclose
National Autistic Society	Disclosing an autism diagnosis in school or college	https://network.autism.org.uk/knowledge/policy-guidance/disclosing-autism-diagnosis-school-or-college

Learn Self-Advocacy Skills

Learning social skills is crucial given limitations individuals with autism may be confronted with. As part of the social skills lesson, learn to self-advocate.

Car Autism Roadmap- an article describing the importance for individuals with autism to be able to self-advocate <https://www.carautismroadmap.org/developing-self-advocacy-skills-to-last-a-lifetime/>

Need help with a particular issue such as employment, health care, or education, for example? Contact a local organization assisting individuals, families, and organizations with issues related to autism. These organizations include but are not limited to Autism Speaks, Disability Rights Connecticut, FAVOR, Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA), and more.

Have an Understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The **United Way of Connecticut 2-1-1 eLibrary** webpage has information regarding the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) <https://uwc.211ct.org/ada-the-americans-with-disabilities-act/>

United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division website offers information and technical assistance on the American with Disabilities Act <https://www.ada.gov/>

Additional Resources

For a more comprehensive listing of information related to Autism Spectrum Disorder, please contact the DSS Autism Unit and speak with an Autism Support Resource Specialist:

Nathaniel Calixto
Autism Support and Resource Specialist
Nathaniel.Calixto@ct.gov
Tel: 860-424-5677
Fax: 860-920-3170

Cathleen Calway
Autism Support and Resource Specialist
cathleen.calway@ct.gov
Tel: 860-424-5567
Fax: 860-920-3170

***Please note: The contents of this document are provided solely for informational purposes. It is meant to give individuals with ASD and their families a choice regarding services and supports. The DSS Autism Division does not specifically recommend or endorse any individual provider or practitioner.