

The Florida Department of Health,
Division of Children's Medical Services

EARLY STEPS DIRECTORY

2018



Information and resources for caregivers of infants and toddlers with diagnosed or suspected developmental delays, disabilities, and at-risk conditions from birth to 36 months.

Send any questions or requests to be added to the directory to:

EarlyStepsDirectory@flhealth.gov

Visit our website at EarlyStepsDirectory.com

Last Update: 05/30/2018



This directory provides information on the following resources

- **Public & Private Early Intervention Services in Florida** **Page 3**
This includes contact information for Local Early Steps (LES) programs across the state, which coordinate the system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C.
- **Support Groups/Organizations & Parent Training and Information Centers** **Page 3**
This includes resources about professional groups, parent support groups, training, and information centers. These groups and organizations provide assistance to infants and toddlers eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C and their families.
- **Florida Resources and Experts** **Page 4**
This includes resources and experts available in Florida who have special skills or knowledge related to the unique needs of infants and toddlers and their families.
These organizations provide support, assistance and advocacy in communities across Florida.
- **National Resources and Experts** **Page 8**
This includes resources and experts who have special skills or knowledge related to the unique needs of infants and toddlers and their families.
These organizations provide support, assistance and advocacy across the nation.
- **Florida Pilot, Research, and Demonstration Projects** **Page 11**
This includes information on research and demonstration projects being conducted in Florida relating to infants and toddlers with disabilities.
These projects establish or confirm facts, develop new methods, or demonstrate a particular approach related to early intervention supports and services.

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Public & Private Early Intervention Services in Florida

Where Can I Refer My Child for Early Intervention Services?

[Find the Local Early Steps program](#) – address, contact person, phone number and email for the office that provides services in your area.

How Can I Become a Service Provider?

[Become a Local Early Steps Provider](#)- If you would like to apply to become an Early Steps Provider, please contact the Local Early Steps Provider Relations Liaison.

Support Groups/Organizations & Parent Training & Information Centers

[Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive](#) – is a coordinated federal effort that will help families and providers to encourage healthy child development, universal developmental and behavioral screening for children, and support for the families and providers who care for them.

Website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/child-health-development/watch-me-thrive/families>

[Central Florida Parent Center](#) – provides parents of children and young adults with all disabilities and special needs (ages 0-26) in central and northeast Florida with information and support.

Website: <http://www.centralfloridaparentcenter.org>

Phone: (888) 61-AWARE (612-9273)

E-mail: cfpc@cflparents.org

[Early Steps Family Resource Specialists](#) – provides information and support, training, community resource development, family representation for families involved in the Early Steps system.

Website: http://www.floridahealth.gov/alternatesites/cms-kids/families/early_steps/frs.html

[Easter Seals Make the First Five Count](#) – a resource to partner with parents in raising a healthy and happy child. Answers questions about child development and helps parents to be aware of the five key growth areas during the critical years before their child starts kindergarten.

Website: <http://www.easterseals.com/mtffc/>

Phone: (800) 221-6827

[The Family Health Line](#) – is a statewide free hotline offering counseling information and referrals about pregnancy, infant and toddler issues. The goal of the hotline is to improve the health status of Florida's pregnant women and their children by providing callers with information on helpful community resources and answering basic questions about pregnancy, breastfeeding, childbirth education and other pregnancy related concerns.

Website: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/womens-health/pregnancy/family-health-line.html>

Phone: (800) 451-2229

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Family Network on Disabilities of Florida – a grassroots organization for persons with disabilities and their families that is family-centered and family-driven.

Website: www.fndusa.org

Phone: (800) 825-5736

Healthy Start – available to pregnant women, infants and children up to age three. Services include: referral and ongoing care coordination and support to assure access to needed services.

Website: <http://healthystartflorida.com/>

Phone: (850) 270-9246

Parent to Parent of Miami – a community parent resource center serving parents of children with disabilities in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

Website: www.ptopmiami.org

Phone: (305) 271-9797

Florida Resources and Experts

The ARC of Florida, Inc. – resources for parents of children with disabilities.

Website: www.arcflorida.org

Phone: (800) 226-1155

Bright Expectations – provides resources and information on developmental disabilities for pregnant women, health care providers, parents, and families.

Website: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/people-with-disabilities/bright-expectations/index.html>

Phone: (850) 245-4465

Bureau of Exceptional Education & Student Services (BEESS) – administers programs for students with disabilities and for gifted students.

Website: <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/>

Phone: (850) 245-0475

Children's Forum – provides programs, special projects, events and publications for families, providers, and communities.

Website: <http://www.fcforum.org/>

Phone: (888) FL-CHILD (352-4453)

Disability Rights Florida – protection and advocacy system for the State of Florida with mission to advance the quality of life, dignity, equality, self-determination, and freedom of choice of persons with disabilities.

Website: <http://www.disabilityrightsflorida.org/>

Phone: (800) 342-0823

TDD: (800) 346-4127

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Easter Seals Florida – offers a variety of services to help people with disabilities address life's challenges and achieve personal goals.

Address: 520 N. Semoran Blvd. Suite 280, Orlando, Florida 32807

Website: <http://www.easterseals.com/florida/>

Phone: (407) 306-9766 Fax: (407) 629-4754

The Family Café, Inc. – brings together individuals with disabilities and their families with state agencies, non-profit organizations, and other service providers for networking opportunities.

Website: <https://familycafe.net/>

Phone: (888) 309-CAFÉ (2233)

Florida Agency for Health Care Administration – responsible for the administration of the Florida Medicaid program, licensure, and regulation of Florida's health facilities and for providing information to Floridians about the quality of care they receive.

Website: <http://ahca.myflorida.com/>

Phone: (850) 488-3560

Florida Agency for Health Care Administration: State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) – provides Florida children from birth through age 18, health and dental services coverage through Florida KidCare which includes free, subsidized and full-pay options based on family income and household size.

Website: www.floridakidcare.org

Phone: (888) 540-5437

TTY: (877) 316-8748

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST), Inc. – provides Floridians free access to information, referral services, educational programs, and publications in accessible format on extensive topics related to disability rights, laws/policies, and funding opportunities for assistive technology.

Website: <https://www.faast.org/>

Email: faast@faast.org

Phone: (850) 487-3278 or (888) 788-9216

TDD: (877) 506-2723

Florida Association for Infant Mental Health – focused on prevention, identification, and treatment of emotional and behavioral disorders in children birth to age 5.

Website: <http://faimh.org/>

Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc. – available to pregnant women, infants, and children up to age three. Services include: referral and ongoing care coordination and support to assure access to needed services.

Website: <http://healthystartflorida.com/>

Phone: (850) 270-9246

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Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (FLASHA) – serves the needs of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists in the State of Florida.

Website: www.flasha.org

Phone: (800) 243-3574

E-Mail: <https://flasha.org/>

Florida Child Care Resource and Referral – Provides access to affordable, quality early learning services for the state's children and families.

Website: <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com>

Phone: 1-(866) FLREADY (357-3239)

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. – advocates and promotes meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities.

Website: www.fddc.org

Phone: (800) 580-7801

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS) – provides diagnostic, instructional, and technology support services to district exceptional education programs and families of students with disabilities ages 3 to 21.

Website: <http://www.fdlrs.org/>

Phone: (386) 312-2265

Florida Head Start – provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to children from low-income families.

Website: <http://www.floridaheadstart.org/>

Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT) – authorized by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to advise and assist public and private agencies in implementing a statewide system of early intervention services.

Website: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/FloridaICC/>

Email address: FICCIT@flhealth.gov

Florida Occupational Therapy Association (FOTA) – supports, develops and represents the occupational therapy profession for the advancement of the practice and to better serve the consumer.

Website: www.flota.org

Florida Physical Therapy Association – serves the needs of physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and physical therapy students in the State of Florida.

Website: www.fpta.org/

Phone: (850) 222-1243

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Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) – a fully accredited state public school and outreach center available tuition-free to eligible Pre-K and K-12 deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired students, including meals, boarding, transportation and other services.

Address: 207 N. San Marco Avenue - St. Augustine, FL 32084

Website: <http://www.fsdb.k12.fl.us/>

Phone: (800) 344-3732

Florida School for Deaf and Blind Outreach Services/Parent Infant Program (PIP) – designed to offer early intervention, family-centered programs for children ages 0-5 who are deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired, free of charge.

Website: <http://www.fsdb.k12.fl.us/index.php/parent-services/parent-infant-programs/>

Phone: (904) 827-2232 or (904) 827-2437 or (904) 201-4581 (VP)

Help Me Grow Florida – designed to address the need for early identification of developmental and/or behavioral concerns, and then to link children and their families to community-based developmental and behavioral services and supports.

Website: www.helpmegrowfl.org

Phone: 2-1-1 or (850) 617-6333

TDD Toll Free: (888) 488-8633

March of Dimes/Florida Chapter – programs and services in communities across Florida, we promote healthy pregnancies and babies.

Website: www.marchofdimes.org/florida/

Phone: (212) 353-8353

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired – Provides support and resources to children who are blind or visually impaired and their families.

Website: www.miamilighthouse.org

Phone: (305) 856-2288

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National Resources and Experts

AbleNet, Assistive Technology/Devices – educational and technical solutions to help children and adults with disabilities lead productive and fulfilled lives.

Website: <https://www.ablenetinc.com/>

Email: customerservice@ablenetinc.com

Phone: (651) 294-2200 or (800) 322-0956

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) – provides assistance in identifying the needs of people with developmental disabilities for support services. APD also maintains a resource directory as an informational service to help individuals with disabilities learn about available resources and organizations in their local communities.

Website: <http://apd.myflorida.com>

Community Resource Directory: <http://resourcedirectory.apd.myflorida.com/resourcedirectory/>

Phone: 1 (866) 273-2273

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) – the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students.

Website: <http://www.asha.org>

Phone: *Members* (800) 498-2071 or *non-members* (800) 638-8255

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information – information and technical assistance about the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Website: www.ada.gov

Phone: (800) 514-0301 (*voice*)

TTY: (800) 514-0383

Autism Speaks – funding for research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

Website: <http://www.autismspeaks.org>

Phone: (888) 288-4762

En Español: (888) 772-9050

Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive – is a coordinated federal effort that will help families and providers to encourage healthy child development, universal developmental and behavioral screening for children, and support for the families and providers who care for them.

Website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/child-health-development/watch-me-thrive/families>

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Beach Center on Families and Disability – research and training center committed to making a significant and sustainable positive difference in the quality of life of individuals and families affected by disability and the professionals who support them.

Website: www.beachcenter.org

Phone: (785) 864-7600

Center for Parent Information and Resources – resources and products related to children with disabilities.

Website: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/>

Phone: (973) 642-8100

Division for Early Childhood (DEC) – promotes policies and advances evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children (0-8) who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities.

Website: <http://www.dec-sped.org/>

Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) – help families understand their rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), connect with other families, and find high-quality resources.

Website: <http://ectacenter.org/families.asp>

Phone: (919) 962.2001

Email: ectacenter@unc.edu

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – promotes high-quality early learning for children birth through age 8.

Website: <http://www.naeyc.org/>

Phone: (800) 424-2460

The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities – provides information about unique abilities, including descriptions, risk factors, signs, and symptoms; screenings, diagnosis; data and statistics; research and related articles. The information is easily accessible and organized in searchable categories.

Website: <https://cdc.gov/ncbddd/index.html>

Phone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)

National Down Syndrome Society – advocate for the value, acceptance, and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

Website: <http://www.ndss.org/>

Phone: (800) 221-4602

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Research and Training Center on Early Childhood Education – focus on interventions associated with the healthy mental, behavioral, communication, pre-literacy, social-emotional, and interpersonal development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with or at risk for developmental disabilities.

Website: <http://www.puckett.org/researchtrainingcenter.php>

Phone: (800) 824-1182

Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children (TACSEI) – creates products and resources to help decision-makers, caregivers, and service providers apply best practices to improve the social-emotional outcomes for young children.

Website: <http://www.challengingbehavior.org/>

Phone: (813) 974-6100

What Works Clearinghouse – review of research on the different *programs, products, practices,* and *policies* in education.

Website: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/default.aspx>

Phone: (866) 503-6114

Wrightslaw – information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities.

Website: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/ei.index.htm>

Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families – a national, nonprofit organization that provides parents, professionals, and policymakers the knowledge and know-how to nurture early development.

Website: <https://www.zerotothree.org/>

Phone: (202) 638-1144

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Florida Pilot, Research, and Demonstration Projects

Autism Spectrum Disorder (a pilot study) – focus on the unique experiences of families who have a young child at risk for or identified with an autism spectrum disorder and their experiences with early intervention.

Website: <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v15n1/coogle.html>

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CEFEL) – Resource for parents of children with disabilities.

Website: <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>

Early Social Interaction Project – a demonstration and research project that provides early intervention for toddlers with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families.

Website: <http://esi.fsu.edu/>

First Words Project – a longitudinal research investigation in the Autism Institute in the College of Medicine at Florida State University.

Website: <http://firstwords.fsu.edu/>

Phone: (850) 488-5780

Florida State University Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy – focuses on vulnerable infants and toddlers who can be positively affected through nurturing relationships, strong maternal and child health, and quality early childhood care and education.

Website: <http://www.cpeip.fsu.edu/>

Phone: (850) 922-1300

Florida's Transition Project for Infants, Young Children, & their Families – assists local communities to develop, improve or sustain a seamless system of transition among the agencies providing services to young children with disabilities, birth to 6 years of age, and their families.

Website: <http://floridatransitionproject.ucf.edu/>

Phone: (352) 372-2485

Fax: (352) 334-1773

KidTalk Tactics Project – a model demonstration project to develop, describe, and disseminate an early communication intervention model that effectively supports continuous communication development in children ages 12-60 months old.

Website: <http://kttp.cci.fsu.edu>

Projects and research at the University of South Florida – of Early Childhood Intervention.

Website: <http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/projects-research/?topicID=3>

Phone: (813) 974-4640

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