

3 Steps for a Concerned Parent

1 Primary Care Physician (PCP)

Discuss your concerns with your child's PCP. Your child's PCP will perform an initial evaluation to determine if your child is meeting age appropriate milestones.

2 School District Screening

You may be eligible to receive a free screening for a suspected disability from your child's public school district. The steps for obtaining a school-aged child's public school district screening are available online at the Ohio Department of Education or by calling (877) 644-6338. It is also available at connectingforkids.org/childtypical.

3 Private Evaluation

Your child's PCP may refer you for a private evaluation with a psychologist, counselor, speech-language pathologist, or occupational therapist. Your insurance company may or may not cover the cost of these evaluations and/or services. We recommend that you check with your insurance company before your appointment.

You're not alone

We know what it's like to worry about a child. Every child is unique and special and they all grow and develop at their own pace. Some children just need a little extra time to meet certain milestones and yours may be one of them. However, if your child's development or behavior seems different than other children the same age, don't assume your child will outgrow it. Remember, you are your child's best advocate.

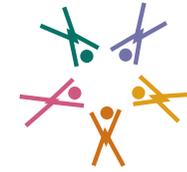


Connecting for Kids

If your child is not in elementary school yet, please refer to our brochure for children from birth to five years of age.

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Connecting for Kids

Empower the Parent: School-Aged Child

Concerned about your child's development?
Information and resources to help your child.



(440) 250-5563 | connectingforkids.org
A nonprofit organization serving Cleveland's west side

Who can help me?



Connecting for Kids

Connecting for Kids' mission is to educate and support families with questions or concerns about their child's development.

Whether your child has a formal diagnosis or if you are just questioning whether his or her development is typical compared to same-aged peers, Connecting for Kids can help. We can guide you through the process of evaluation and setting up a service plan for your child.

(440) 250-5563
connectingforkids.org



Among other programs, NAMI Greater Cleveland offers free education and support

programs for families/caregivers of children 19 and under struggling with neurobiological disorders such as ADHD, Anxiety Disorders, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Depression, Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia.

(216) 875-7776
namigreatercleveland.org



The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) advocates for parent and family support services. OCECD is dedicated to insuring that every child

with a disability, ages birth through 26 years, is provided a free, appropriate public education.

(800) 374-2806
ocecd.org



Milestones Autism Organization is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. No question is too big or too small. Call our office

for answers and knowledgeable advice. Find help planning, preparing and prioritizing to meet your child's short and long-term needs.

(216) 464-7600
milestones.org

Can a counselor help our family?

Many children can greatly benefit from counseling services. Counselors will work with the parent to develop practical, real-world solutions for the home or work with the child to encourage expression and interaction in therapy. Such treatment can promote positive change in the child's mood, behavior, and psychological functioning.

Can a psychologist help our family?

Often a child will present symptoms such as anxiety or inattention, but the underlying diagnosis may be ADHD, ASD or an anxiety disorder, among others. Psychologists can work with your child and family to diagnose the underlying issue and develop an appropriate and tailored behavior plan to improve your child's social and emotional skills and behavior.

Can a speech-language pathologist help our family?

Speech-language pathologists work on more than just articulation and grammar. They can help with multiple areas of communication including social skills (inviting children to play, turn taking, etc.) and expressive language. By teaching children to communicate their feelings and wants, meltdowns may be reduced.

"I want him to have friends. I never thought of taking him to a speech therapist or a counselor to help him learn social skills."

"My son's friend goes to a math tutor. So I told him that his counselor is his emotions tutor."

"I thought only children with autism had sensory issues!"

Can an occupational therapist help our family?

Some children may appear anxious, angry, inattentive, withdrawn and/or the child might "meltdown" frequently because their sensory system is not functioning properly. A child's sensory system takes in sight, sound, smell, taste, touch and movement input from their environment. When a child's body over or under registers that input, the child can benefit from an occupational therapist (OT) who is trained in sensory integration. An OT can also help your child with feeding issues (picky eater), motor planning/praxis (clumsy child), fine motor skills (handwriting, shoe tying) and perceptual skills (puzzles, mazes, reading).

If my child does not qualify for services from the school, should I still seek private therapy?

Many developmental delays may not be currently interfering with your child's learning but could be inhibiting the child's social or family life. Private interventions may still be beneficial for your child's overall health and well-being.