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**Resources**

Autizm Out Loud wants to ensure you are informed and remain up to date on all programs and regulations. This page is your go to for resources and information on how navigate the system.

**Key Terms**

**Autism:** Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a developmental disorder that affects communication, social interaction, and behavior. It is characterized by a wide range of symptoms and challenges, which can vary from person to person. Individuals with autism may have difficulty with verbal and nonverbal communication, exhibit repetitive behaviors or restricted interests, and experience sensory sensitivities.

**Audiologists:** specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids.

**Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT):** Classroom with age-appropriate peers in the general education classroom. ICT classes are taught by two teachers, one general education or content area teacher and one special education teacher. The teachers collaborate to adapt and modify instruction so all students can access the grade-level curriculum.

**Neurodivergent:** refer to people whose thought patterns, behaviors, or learning styles fall outside of what is considered "normal," or [neurotypical](https://www.verywellhealth.com/what-does-it-mean-to-be-neurotypical-260047).

**Occupational Therapy:** help autistic children with important skills such as **emotion regulation, sensory processing, motor skills**, and**daily living skills. Through fun and**[play](https://readykids.com.au/tag/play/)–**based activities**, occupational therapists can teach children a range of skills, including how to manage their emotions better and improve their social interactions

**Physical Therapy:** focus on enhancing motor skills development, sensory integration, coordination, and balance. Through a combination of targeted exercises, therapeutic techniques, and play-based activities, physical therapists help individuals with autism improve their motor abilities and reach their full potential.

**Speech-language pathologists (SLPs):** identify, assess, and treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders.

**Programs**

**NEST, HORIZON, AIMS**

[The Nest, Horizon, and AIMS are three NYC Public School programs supporting autistic learners. They are available Districts 1-32 and 75 schools. Each program works to strengthen academic, communication and social skills and supports students in different classroom settings](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/school-settings/specialized-programs)

[Specialized Programs for Students with Disabilities (nyc.gov)](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/school-settings/specialized-programs)

**State of New York Regulations**

**Early Intervention Program (EIP)**

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) is a publicly funded program that provides services for children under the age of three who are suspected of having, or are at risk for, developmental delays or disabilities. Potentially eligible children must be referred to the county program to access EIP services. Children can be referred to the EIP for an evaluation by a parent, the child’s pediatrician, EIP Agency qualified personnel, or anyone who suspects that the child has a developmental delay. The Early Intervention Program is available to children and families, regardless of income status. All information provided by a parent or guardian about the child and family is kept completely confidential.

To refer a child to the EIP, the County EIP where the child lives must be called:

* New York City: 311
* Nassau County: 516-227-8661
* Suffolk County: 631-853-3100
* Westchester County: 914-813- 5094
* Orange County: 845-360-6630
* Ulster County: 845-334-5251
* Dutchess County: 845-486-3982
* Putnam County: 845-808-1390
* NYS Growing Up Healthy Hotline: 800-522-5006

The Early Intervention Program is funded by New York State and county governments. All EIP services are provided at no out of pocket cost to parents. If services are delivered in childcare settings or community locations that require a fee, the parent is responsible for paying said fee – i.e. private daycare tuition. In addition, a child’s health insurance may be used to cover some of the costs for approved services. Health insurance, however, is not required to participate in the Early Intervention Program. A child’s eligibility for the program can be determined only by state-approved evaluators under contract, and all services must be authorized by the county. Parents and guardians choose the evaluators from a list of EIP providers list, which will be given to the family by an EI Service Coordinator.

If a child is found eligible for the EIP, all necessary EIP services are identified, in collaboration with the parent, and must be authorized by the municipality. The municipality, together with the parent, will select the provider agency or agencies that will work with the child and family.

All About Kids is approved as an EIP Agency by the New York State Department of Health, as a provider of EIP Evaluations and Therapy Services, and may also assist families and others in the referral of a child.

**Committee on Preschool Education (CPSE)**

All About Kids is approved by New York State Education Department to evaluate children for the New York State CPSE Program. Parents concerned about the development of their preschool child (ages 3-5) should refer their child to their School District’s Committee for Preschool Special Education (CPSE) to request an evaluation. Through the CPSE, parents select the NY State Education Department authorized evaluator they wish to assess their child. Only the CPSE determines eligibility and authorization of services. The CPSE program is funded and monitored by the New York State Education Department as well as regional County governments. All authorized services are provided at no cost to the parents.

### Websites

### All About Learning Disabilities and ADHD

LD OnLine seeks to help children and adults reach their full potential by providing accurate and up-to-date information and advice about learning disabilities and ADHD. The site features hundreds of helpful articles, multimedia, monthly columns by noted experts, first person essays, children’s writing and artwork, a comprehensive resource guide, very active forums, and a Yellow Pages referral directory of professionals, schools, and products.

### <https://www.ldonline.org/>

### The American Occupational Therapy Association

The American Occupational Therapy Association advances the quality, availability, use, and support of occupational therapy through standard-setting, advocacy, education, and research on behalf of its members and the public.

### <https://www.aota.org/>

### Autism Society

The Autism Society, the nation’s leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism.

### <https://www.aota.org/>

### Autism Speaks

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the lifespan, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of autism spectrum disorder; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.

### <https://www.autismspeaks.org/>

### CDC Act Early Program

The CDC’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” program aims to improve early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities so children and families can get the services and support they need.

### <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/>

### Center for Early Literacy Learning

The goal of the Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) is to promote the adoption and sustained use of evidence-based early literacy learning practices. This site has resources for early childhood intervention practitioners, parents, and other caregivers of children, birth to five years of age, with identified disabilities, developmental delays, and those at-risk for poor outcomes.

### <https://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/>

### Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHCN) Program

The Children with Special Health Care Needs Program seeks to improve the system of care for children with special health care needs from birth to 21 years of age and their families. The Program helps to shape public policy so families can get the best health care for their children.

### <https://www.health.ny.gov/community/special_needs/>

### Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

The DDPC addresses the needs of people with developmental disabilities by conducting advocacy, systems change, and capacity building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion.

### <https://cdd.ny.gov/>

### E-Learning For Kids

E-learning for kids is a global, nonprofit foundation dedicated to fun and free learning on the internet for children ages 5 - 12.

### <https://www.e-learningforkids.org/>

### The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

The ECTA is a non profit funded by the Office of Special Education Programs to improve state early intervention and early childhood special education service systems, increase the implementation of effective practices, and enhance the outcomes of these programs for young children and their families.

### <https://ectacenter.org/>

### Feeding Matters

### https://www.feedingmatters.org/

### The International Dyslexia Association

The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) is an organization focused on the complex issues of dyslexia and related language-based learning disabilities which make it difficult to learn to read and write.

### <https://lidyslexia.com/>

### The National Association for Education of Young Children

The NAEYC is a professional membership organization that works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy, and research. NAEYC members rely on the vast resources that the association produces, including an award-winning journal and magazine, a library of bestselling books and manuals, as well as digital media. Developed by experts and thought leaders in the early childhood field, these publications focus on developmentally appropriate practice and enable members to stay up-to-date on current research and emerging trends, which they can apply directly to their classroom practice.

### <https://www.naeyc.org/>

### National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management

NCHAM serves as the National Technical Resource Center for the implementation and improvement of comprehensive and effective Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) systems. Their goal is to ensure that all infants and toddlers with hearing loss are identified as early as possible and provided with timely and appropriate audiological, educational, and medical intervention.

### <https://www.infanthearing.org/>

### New York State Office of Special Education

The New York State Office of Special Education provides assistance to parents, advocacy groups, and schools related to services and programs for students with disabilities.

### <https://www.nysed.gov/special-education>

### Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

The New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is responsible for coordinating services for more than 128,000 New Yorkers with developmental disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorders, and other neurological impairments.

### <https://opwdd.ny.gov/>

### The Office Of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Ideas that work

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21.This website will include resources, links, and other important information relevant to OSEP’s research to practice efforts.

### <https://osepideasthatwork.org/>

### Parent to Parent of NYS

Parent to Parent of NYS is a statewide non profit where families of individuals with special needs and the professionals who serve them can meet and share information.

### <https://www.ptopnys.org/>

### Positive Parenting

Parenting teleclasses and court approved parenting classes geared toward making raising children more rewarding. Home of the Dial-A-Discipline tool.

### <https://www.positiveparenting.com/>

### QCDD (Queens Council on Development Disabilities)

The Queens Council on Developmental Disabilities is a group of professionals, parents, and advocates concerned about people with developmental disabilities living in Queens. The mission of the Queens Council is to advise, inform, pioneer, identify needs and problems and to work toward their resolution. The Council consists of several committees focused on addressing unmet needs of Queens residents with developmental disabilities. The Council is charged with assisting and advocating for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

### [Queens Council on Developmental Disabilities (qcddny.org)](https://www.qcddny.org/?fbclid=IwAR13fDeLonmN0LMIIwLibZnwmFU7FLVAhlVM3S8EJ3QyTLMkhVE2F5RjETc)

### Reach out and Read New York

Reach Out and Read prepares America’s youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together. In the Greater New York region

### <https://reachoutandreadnyc.org/>

### Star Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder

Their mission is to improve the quality of life for children, adolescents and adults with SPD, and their families by providing: comprehensive assessment and effective intervention for Sensory Processing Disorder, rigorous research with our collaborating university-based research partners, education for caregivers, pediatric professionals, and educators, and advocacy for official recognition of SPD worldwide.

### <https://sensoryhealth.org/>

### US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts.

### <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html>

### US DOE Reading Resources

Reading resources for parents and their children

### <https://www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml>

### Zero to Three

Zero to Three works to ensure that babies and toddlers benefit from the family and community connections critical to their well-being and development. Since 1977, Zero to Three has advanced the proven power of nurturing relationships by transforming the science of early childhood into helpful resources, practical tools and responsive policies for millions of parents, professionals and policymakers.

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

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