Access To Early Childhood Services For Children And Families Prenatal Through Age 5

Family involvement is critical throughout a child’s life. The parents or primary caregivers are seen as the experts about their child. Service providers provide support to the family.

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FAMILY (lifespan)
Families are the primary decision makers for children’s healthy development. Families are responsible for:

• Choosing culturally and linguistically competent support and service providers
• Setting goals
• Designing, implementing, and evaluating programs
• Monitoring outcomes
• Partnering in funding decisions
• Engaging in policy and procedure governing care for all children

When a CHILD demonstrates a need

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS respond to a child’s needs by providing care and seeking additional resources

HEALTH INSURANCE
• Medicaid
• ALL Kids
• Private Insurance

NATURAL SUPPORTS
• Grandparents, Relatives, Neighbors, Friends, Teachers, Faith-based & Other Community Partners

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

SEEK ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

ADVOCACY

MONITOR PROGRESS

DECISION MAKING

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
• FOOD ASSISTANCE DIVISION Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
• FAMILY ASSISTANCE DIVISION Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
dhr.alabama.gov

ALABAMA NETWORK OF FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS
Located around the state to serve and assist families by identifying and addressing barriers to success anfrconline.homestead.com

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES
Provide direct social services to families with low and moderate incomes caaalabama.org
MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SERVICES

Families should utilize preventive care services available, including screenings, and connect to a medical and dental home.

- **PREGNANCY**
  - OBGYN
  - Home Visiting

- **PRENATAL**
  - Child care
  - Pediatric care provider

- **BIRTH**
  - CHD, WIC, ETC.

**MEDICAL HOME PEDIATRICIAN, FAMILY PHYSICIAN**
Preventive care: immunizations, well child exams including dental, hearing, vision and developmental screening
Coverage through Medicaid EPSDT, ALL Kids, or private insurance

- **COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (CHD)**
  - WIC, nutrition, breastfeeding, well child exams, and dental services
  - Developmental Concerns

- **SPECIALITY CARE**
  - DENTAL HOME
  - Exams, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride, fillings, extractions, specialty care, etc.
  - Mental Health Concerns

- **LEA**
  - Early Intervention
  - Help Me Grow
  - where available

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

- AL Department of Mental Health mh.alabama.gov
- National Alliance on Mental Illness namialabama.org
- Mental Health Resource Directory alabamamentalhealth.org
- Local Education Agency (ages 3 through 5) rehab.alabama.gov
ALABAMA’S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM (ages 0 through 2)

Early Intervention is a voluntary system for children who meet eligibility criteria with developmental delays or conditions known to cause developmental delays in one or more of the following: physical, communication, cognitive, adaptive, social or emotional. rehab.alabama.gov/individuals-and-families/early-intervention

Child may be screened with ASQ-3 and/or ASQ-SE, but not required

Family, pediatric care provider, or other community service may refer to Child Find

Service Coordinator will arrange evaluation(s) to determine eligibility

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**Eligible**

- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed by team
- Early Intervention services are individualized, developmentally appropriate, and provided in the natural environment
- At age 3, transition to LEA and/or other community placement

**Ineligible**

- Referral to Help Me Grow where available or call 2-1-1
- If needing continued developmental services, refer to pediatric care provider

Home health provider or other appropriate resources
SERVICES FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (ages 3 through 5)

Special education services area provided for preschool children with disabilities who meet eligibility criteria of the Alabama Administrative code. To qualify, the disability must adversely affect the child's participation and progress in age appropriate activities.

Request for Initial Evaluation received by Local Education Agency (LEA)

Individual Education Program (IEP) Team determines the need for evaluation

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**Yes**

- Written parental consent for initial evaluation obtained
- Initial evaluation completed within 60 days of LEA receipt of consent for the initial evaluation
- Eligibility for special education services determined within 30 days of completion of last assessment
- IEP developed by team within 30 days of eligibility determination
- Written parental consent obtained for provision of special education services in the LEA

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**No**

- Parent may request another evaluation at a later date
- Referral to Help Me Grow where available or call 2-1-1
- If needing continued developmental services, refer to pediatric care provider

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Home health provider or other appropriate resources
HOME VISITING (prenatal through age 5)

Home Visiting programs exist throughout the state to provide services to help strengthen at-risk families. children.alabama.gov

Nurse Family Partnership (prenatal through 2)
First time moms must enroll by 28 weeks gestation

Parents as Teachers (0 through 5)
Individual home visits and group meetings

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) (3 through 5)
Individual home visits and group meetings

Home Visiting programs may conduct screenings such as:

- Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Screen
- ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE
- Domestic Violence Evaluation
- Healthy Home Offerings Via the Mealtime Environment (HOME)

Referral to other community resources

Pediatric care provider and/or OBGYN as partner

LEA

Early Intervention

CHD

Department of Human Resources

Family Resource Centers
CHILD CARE (age 0+)
Any quality licensed child care center, certified family home, or half day/preschool.
dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child_Care_Services/Child_Care_Services_Division.aspx

Family seeking child care
Contact regional Child Care Management Agency
List of available child care providers for families
dhr.alabama.gov/daycare/daycare_search.aspx

If current child care provider in need of assistance
Contact Department of Human Resources
1-866-528-1694

Child experiences social/ emotional, behavioral or
developmental concerns
Conduct screening using a reliable screening instrument

Pediatric care provider as partner

Help Me Grow where available
Early Intervention
LEA
Referral to other community resources
Early Head Start/Head Start (EHS/HS) is a federally funded program that serves low income pregnant women and children through age 5. Programs are designed locally based on community needs, may be center-based or home visiting, and promote school readiness. children.alabama.gov

All EHS/HS children receive comprehensive screening with results discussed with parents: health, developmental, hearing, vision, and dental.

**HEALTH CONCERN IDENTIFIED**

With parent permission, make referral to community resource and/or pediatric care provider.

**DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS IDENTIFIED**

Continued support and ongoing assessment of child’s progress in order to plan and individualize response for each child.

**NO DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY OR CONCERN IDENTIFIED**

Emerging concerns or lack of progress.

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Early Intervention

LEA
First Class Pre-K is Alabama’s state funded pre-kindergarten program. All children who are 4 years old by September 1 of the year and residents of Alabama are eligible. children.alabama.gov

All Pre-K children receive comprehensive screening with results discussed with parents: health, developmental, hearing, vision, and dental.

- **HEALTH CONCERN IDENTIFIED**
  - With parent permission, make referral to community resource and/or pediatric care provider

- **DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS IDENTIFIED**
  - Continued support and ongoing assessment of child’s progress in order to plan and individualize response for each child

- **NO DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY OR CONCERN IDENTIFIED**
  - Emerging concerns or lack of progress

**NOTE:**
- Home Visiting
- Early Head Start/Head Start
- First Class Pre-K

are not available in all areas of the state.
# ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PRENATAL THROUGH AGE 5

**PURPOSE:**
To help service providers and families refer young children to appropriate programs and community services that are designed to support families with children from the prenatal stage through age five.

**VISION:**
To improve the integration of medical, educational, social-emotional and developmental services for families while establishing the need for family involvement and family driven care.

**GOAL:**
To improve the promotion, prevention, transition and treatment of children and families.

## FAMILY
**Parenting Assistance Line** is a call line staffed by parenting resource specialists. PAL is for anyone who wants information and support in becoming a more confident parent. 1-866-962-3030 pal.ua.edu

## MEDICAL, DENTAL, & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SERVICES
**Medicaid** 1-800-362-1504 medicaid.alabama.gov

**Well Child Check-Up** is a Medicaid program that provides Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT). EPSDT provides preventative health care for children and teens; specialty health care for medically necessary services. medicaid.alabama.gov/content/4.0_programs/4.4.0_medical_services/4.4.3_EPSDT.aspx

**ALL Kids: Alabama Children's Health Insurance Program** is for children under the age of 19 who do not have health insurance and whose family income is above the Medicaid income level and below 300 percent of the federal poverty level. 1-888-373-5437 adph.org/allkids/

**CHD: County Health Departments** provide immunization, infectious disease services, and case management services. Contact your local CHD to determine if well child exams or dental services are provided. adph.org/administration/Default.asp?id=505

**WIC: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** is administered by CHD; provides services including food benefits, nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling and support, and referrals for pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5 who meet the qualifications for participation in the WIC program. 1-334-206-5673 adph.org/wic/

**Children’s Rehabilitation Service** provides quality medical, rehabilitative, coordination and support services for children with special health care needs and their families. 1-800-846-3697 rehab.state.al.us/individuals-and-families/childrens-rehabilitation-service

## EARLY INTERVENTION
**Child Find** is the statewide, toll-free Early Intervention number. 1-800-543-3098, TTY 1-800-499-1816, Spanish 1-866-450-2838

## CHILD CARE
**Office of Child Care Subsidy** provides Alabama's low and moderate-income families with equal access to affordable and quality child care services. 1-866-528-1694 dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child_Care_Services/Subsidy_Overview.aspx

**Child Care Management Agencies** supply resources and referrals for families and child care providers. dhr.alabama.gov/counties/daycare_agency.aspx

**Child Care Quality Enhancement Agencies** deliver training and technical assistance for child care providers to improve quality, health, safety, and nutrition. dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child_Care_Services/CCQuality_Enhancement_Agcies.aspx

**Don’t Be In The Dark About Child Care** offers research and recommendations regarding high quality child care. 1-866-711-4025 alabamachildcarefacts.org

## OTHER ALABAMA RESOURCES
**2-1-1 Connects Alabama** is a statewide call system of information and referral whose mission is to provide easy access to health and human services available throughout Alabama. Dial 2-1-1 211connectsalabama.org

**Alabama Department of Children’s Affairs** coordinates First Teacher Home Visitation programs and First Class Pre-K programs, and houses the Head Start Collaboration Office for the state. 1-334-353-2700 children.alabama.gov

**Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council** is a network of leaders developing a comprehensive system of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families. autism.alabama.gov

**Autism Society of Alabama** improves services for persons with autism spectrum disorder and their families through education and advocacy. 1-877-428-8476 autism-alabama.org

**Alabama Department of Education** manages K-12 education and special education services for preschool through grade 12. 1-334-242-9700 Alabama Special Education Services 1-334-242-8114 www.alsde.edu

**Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention** the state’s Children’s Trust Fund, advocates for children and the strengthening of families throughout Alabama. 1-334-262-2951 ctf.alabama.gov
OTHER ALABAMA RESOURCES  Continued

To Report Child Abuse and Neglect contact your county Department of Human Resources.  dhr.alabama.gov/counties/county_select.aspx

Help Me Grow Alabama connects children and families to services they need to address developmental, social, emotional, and behavioral concerns.  1-866-711-4025  HelpMeGrowAL.blogspot.com

NATIONAL WEBSITE RESOURCES

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:  aacap.org
American Academy of Pediatrics: healthychildren.org
Autism Society of America: autism-society.org
Autism Speaks: autismspeaks.org
Born Learning: bomlearning.org

LOCAL CONTACTS

County Health Department: adph.org/administration/Default.asp?id=505
Home Visiting Coordinator:
County Department of Human Resources: dhr.alabama.gov/counties/county_select.aspx
Community Action Agency: caa.alabama.org/contact.php
Head Start or Early Head Start: eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/HeadStartOffices
School District: www.alsde.edu/Home/SchoolInfo/CountyMap.aspx
First Class Pre-K Site:
Child Care Management Agency: dhr.alabama.gov/counties/daycare_agency.aspx
Mental Health Center: mh.alabama.gov/ID/RegionalOffices.aspx
Home Health Provider:
Rehabilitation Provider:
Library:
Other:

STATE OR NATIONAL

POLICE, FIRE, OR AMBULANCE: 9-1-1
Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453
Domestic Abuse Hotline: 1-800-799-7233, TTY 1-800-787-3224
Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
Substance Abuse Hotline: 1-800-662-4357

“Every Alabama Child Will Have the Opportunity to Succeed in Life”

This was made possible by:
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Please help us improve this guide!
Visit smartstartalabama.org/feedback
or email comments to info@smartstartalabama.org.

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