

## Checklist and Suggestions for Parents when your child receives a diagnosis within the Autism Spectrum Disorders

*This document has been created by the Lehigh County Autism Spectrum Disorders Taskforce, which has membership from both families and professionals. The intent of this document is assist Lehigh County families when their child has received a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, including Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Rett's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, NOS (PDD).*

Create a binder to organize all of your child's information, resources, phone numbers, etc. Keep a journal of contacts made including dates, name of person you spoke with, and details of the conversation.

Prior to attending appointments or making inquiry phone calls, make a list of questions you would like answered. Leave space between questions to allow for notes.

### **Medical:**

Prior to leaving the physician's office, schedule your child's next appointment.  
**Date/ Time of Appointment:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Location / Physician's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Obtain a copy of the evaluation, which states the diagnosis and recommended services. Sign a release of information so this document can be sent directly to you once it is completed. If you have not received a copy within three weeks of your appointment, contact the doctor's office to inquire about the status. Once you have received the evaluation, make several copies. *Never give away your last copy!*

Inquire if your child's doctor is making recommendations for any therapeutic services.  
**Recommended Service:** \_\_\_\_\_

Complete all recommended diagnostic testing and blood work within four weeks. *Make sure you have scripts for each test, prior to leaving the doctor's office.*  
**Tests to be completed:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Medical Assistance:**

Apply for Medical Assistance. Even if you have private insurance, medical assistance can provide coverage for services for children with medical problems, which may not be available through private plans. Applications are available at the County Assistance Office or on-line.  
**Lehigh County Assistance Office, 610-821-6509, 101 South Seventh Street Allentown, PA 18101-2295**  
**Website: <https://www.humanservices.state.pa.us/COMPASS>**  
*Upon submission of application be sure to include proof of diagnosis.*

Once you have received a copy of the evaluation with recommendations for Behavioral Health Services and your child is eligible for medical assistance contact the following:  
**HealthChoices consumers, covered by Magellan Behavioral Health, contact the Lehigh Member Line at 866-238-2311, to request behavioral health services.**  
**Fee-For-Service (FFS) and HIPP consumers can contact the Lehigh County HealthChoices Children's Behavioral Health Unit at 610-782-3945 for assistance in arranging behavioral health services.**

***Mental Retardation***

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>If your child has been diagnosed with mental retardation, contact the <b>Lehigh County Information and Referral Office at 610-782-3200</b> to register your child with the <b>Office of Mental Retardation</b>. This office provides service coordination to their consumers.</p> <p><b>Date of Referral:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date of Intake:</b> _____</p>
--------------------------	--

***Education***

0-3 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>If your child is between birth and three years of age and you are concerned about your child's development or your child has been diagnosed with physical or mental development delays, he/she may be eligible for services through the <b>Early Intervention Program (EI)</b>. These services are provided at no cost to the family and include case management, periodic screenings, therapeutic services, and service coordination. Referrals can be made to the <b>Lehigh County Information and Referral Unit (I&amp;R) at 610-782-3200</b>.</p> <p><b>Date of Referral:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date of Intake:</b> _____</p>
---	--

3-5	<p>If your child is between three and five years of age he/she may be eligible for services through the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit's (IU21) Project Connect – Early Intervention Program. Project CONNECT provides screening in all development areas, educational, therapeutic, consultative, and speech services for children with developmental delays. Service coordination will be completed based on results of the evaluations. You can contact the <b>Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21, 4750 Orchard Road Schnecksville, PA 18078, Project CONNECT 800-223-4821 or 610-769-4111 and <a href="http://www.cliu.org">www.cliu.org</a></b>.</p> <p><b>Date of Initial Contact:</b> _____</p>
-----	---

School age	<p>If your child is of school age, contact your local school district to access for specialized services and arrange a meeting to discuss your child's needs.</p> <p><b>Date of Initial Contact:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date of Meeting:</b> _____</p>
------------	---