

Overview of Medical Identification and Educational Determination of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Do you have questions about your child's progress? **Don't wait!**

Both the medical system and your school district of residence play a role in evaluating your child's progress and finding out what supports they may be eligible for, starting at birth and available whenever your child is diagnosed with or determined to have autism.

It is important to explore both medical and educational pathways to make sure your child gets everything they need. Some services, like Medical Assistance and Social Security, require a medical diagnosis to be eligible. Educational determination allows students to access special education services through the public school system.

follow both pathways



Medical identification

- Make an appointment with your child's primary care physician and ask for a referral for an autism evaluation.
- After you receive the referral, contact the relevant clinic and follow their intake process. Check with your insurance provider about coverage and requirements for referrals.
- Depending on the results of assessment, the medical provider and their team can help decide if any therapies, medications, and/or supports could help your child.



Educational Determination

- Access [HelpMeGrowMN.org](https://www.helpmegrowmn.org) online or call 1-866-693-4769, or contact your local school district.
- Someone from the school district may decide that testing is needed for special education services. Your family will participate in the assessment.
- After the assessment, if your child or family is eligible for special education services, a planning team will meet to determine next steps on the types of services or supports your child may need.

Special Education Services and Resources include...

- Individualized Education Plans (IEPs, or a similar plan depending on your child's age and where services are provided), which serve as a blueprint for the different special education services and supports your child will receive from the school at no cost to you (the child's parents).
- Your child may also be eligible for related services, including things like physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and school readiness programming, all of which are targeted at helping your child. These therapies are different from those offered in clinical settings, though they share the same name. Children can benefit in different ways from receiving things like speech and language therapy in their school and in clinical settings.



Symptoms and Diagnosis of Autism

People who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD) may experience a range of symptoms and characteristics. Some people may have very noticeable characteristics, others may not. Autism may be diagnosed as early as 18 to 24 months, but can be diagnosed at any age. The earlier treatment and intervention begins, the more effective the outcomes. Here are some of the signs and symptoms of autism.

Social interaction and communication



- Differences in interacting with other people and making or maintaining relationships
 - Differences with back-and-forth conversation
 - Differences using eye contact, gestures, facial expressions, and body language
 - Differences reading social cues
 - Limited meaningful or functional communication
- In very young children, the first symptoms of autism may include:**
- Limited demonstration of emotions, eye contact, or gestures like waving or pointing
 - No or inconsistent response to name
 - Limited interest in sharing or playing with others
 - Loss of speech
 - Delayed speech and/or no social babbling

Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities



- Differences in speech patterns (ex: saying the same things over and over in exactly the same way)
- Repeating behaviors like hand-flapping, rocking, jumping, or twirling
- Insistence on specific routines/strong resistance to minor changes
- Sensitivity to light, touch, and sound
- Strong interests in certain areas or objects
- Unusual interest in looking closely at objects, touching, smelling, or tasting objects

For more information, visit mn.gov/autism or contact ASD.DHS@state.mn.us.

651-431-4300 or 866-267-7655

Attention. If you need free help interpreting this document, call the above number.

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ملاحظة: إذا أردت مساعدة مجانية لترجمة هذه الوثيقة، اتصل على الرقم أعلاه.

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Thov ua twb zoo nyeem. Yog hais tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus rau tsab ntaub ntawv no pub dawb, ces hu rau tus najnpawb xov tooj saum toj no.

ဟ်သျှဉ်ဟ်သးဘဉ်တက့ၢ်. ဖဲန့ၣ်လိာ်ဘဉ်တၢ်မၤစၢၤကလီၤလၢတၢ်ကကျိးထံဝဲဒၣ်လံာ်
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위해 무료로 제공되는 도움을 받으시려면 위의
전화번호로 연락하십시오.

ໂປຣດຊາບ. ຖ້າຫາກ ທ່ານຕ້ອງການການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອໃນການ
ແປເອກະສານນີ້ພຣີ, ຈົ່ງໂທຮັບໂປທິພາຍເລກຂ້າງເທິງນີ້.
Hubachiisa. Dokumentiin kun tola akka siif hiikamu gargaarsa hoo
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Внимание: если вам нужна бесплатная помощь в устном переводе данного документа, позвоните по указанному выше телефону.

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