

AUTISM ROADMAP

Supporting DC Parents through Early Childhood



- Knowing [the signs of autism](#) can be difficult because every child presents differently.
- Many resources exist to support parents/guardians. It can be hard to know **where to start** and what **your role is as a parent/guardian**.
- Community, school, and medical settings offer different approaches to addressing autism concerns. You need both to best support your child's development.
- Evaluation for a diagnosis of autism often requires referral to medical specialists. It is best to get on [multiple waitlists](#) as early as possible. Here are some tips for [what to do while waiting](#).



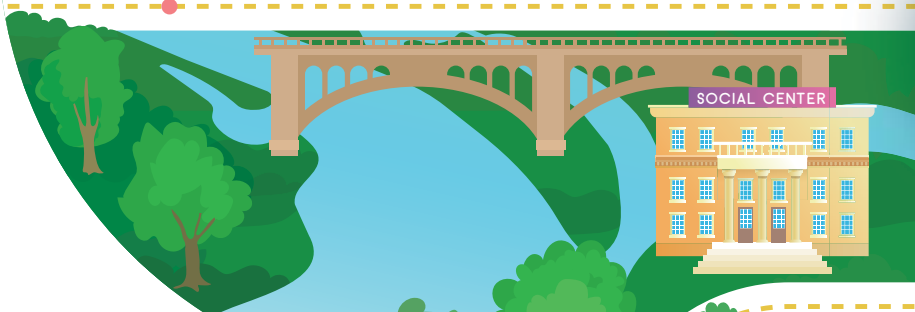
• Connect with your child's pediatrician AND [DC Strong Start](#).



- Express [concerns](#) about autism when you have them to both your pediatrician and Strong Start team.
- Ask your pediatrician for referral to a medical specialist for evaluation of autism concerns.
- Get involved in your child's interventions. You are their best teacher!



• Connect with your child's pediatrician AND [DC Early Stages](#) or your child's school.



- Express [concerns](#) about autism when you have them to both your pediatrician and school team.
- Children with autism are often eligible for special education services. This decision is made by your school team, which includes you! Offer your point of view, desires, and concerns!
- Ask to visit classrooms that your school team recommends and look for a "fit" between your child's strengths, needs, and the classroom setting.
- Know your [rights](#). Seek out [support](#) to help you advocate for your child when needed.



DC AUTISM COLLABORATIVE

