

# Getting the Right Supports for Your Autistic Child



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Autistic children need many different kinds of services. Services are paid for by health insurance, schools, the state and federal government, and nonprofit agencies. To get all of the services they need, most autistic children have to be diagnosed with autism by a medical provider (like a doctor, psychologist, or nurse practitioner) AND be given an autism classification by their school. Here are some tips on getting autism services:

Who pays for this service?	How does my child become eligible?	What are some examples of this service?	Where can I find out more?
Health insurance	Medical provider tests for autism	ABA Speech therapy Occupational therapy	Ask your pediatrician or your child's insurance company for referrals to a provider who can diagnose autism.
School	School system tests for autism	IEP services like special education, speech therapy at school, and special school placement.	If your child has started school, ask your local public school. If your child has not started school, here are websites with more information: DC: <a href="https://www.dchealth.gov/earlychildhood/specialeducation">Early Childhood   special education (dc.gov)</a> Maryland: <a href="https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/infants-toddlers-child-find-contact-list">Infants and Toddlers Child Find Contact List (marylandpublicschools.org)</a> Virginia: <a href="https://www.itcva.org/El-Overview-Infant-Toddler-Connection-of-Virginia">El Overview — Infant &amp; Toddler Connection of Virginia (itcva.online)</a>
State and local government	Apply	Vocational (work) programs, respite care, case management	DC: 1) Get Katie Beckett waiver and HSCSN health insurance: <a href="https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/tax-equity-and-fiscal-responsibility-act-tefrakatie-beckett">https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/tax-equity-and-fiscal-responsibility-act-tefrakatie-beckett</a> 2) Apply for DDA services: <a href="https://dds.dc.gov/service/how-apply-services">https://dds.dc.gov/service/how-apply-services</a> 3) Age 14+: Apply for RSA services: <a href="https://dds.dc.gov/rsa-eligibility-and-intake-process">RSA Eligibility and Intake Process   dds (dc.gov)</a> Maryland: 1) Apply for DDA services: <a href="https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/apply.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/apply.aspx</a> 2) Get on the Autism Waiver wait list:

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			<p>3) <a href="https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/pr/programs/Pages/Special-Education/autismfactsheet.aspx">https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/pr/programs/Pages/Special-Education/autismfactsheet.aspx</a></p> <p>4) Age 14+: Apply for DORS services: <a href="https://dors.maryland.gov/">DORS Home (maryland.gov)</a></p> <p>Virginia:</p> <p>1) Contact your local Community Service Board <a href="https://dbhds.virginia.gov/community-services-boards-csbs/">https://dbhds.virginia.gov/community-services-boards-csbs/</a></p> <p>2) Age 14+: Apply for DARS services: <a href="https://dars.virginia.gov/">Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services</a></p>
Nonprofits	Apply	Respite care, afterschool programs, parent groups, advocacy	<p>DC: Advocates for Justice and Education <a href="https://www.aje-dc.org/">https://www.aje-dc.org/</a></p> <p>MD: Parents' Place of Maryland <a href="https://www.ppmd.org/">https://www.ppmd.org/</a></p> <p>VA: Formed Families Forward <a href="https://formedfamiliesforward.org/">https://formedfamiliesforward.org/</a> and Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center <a href="http://www.peatc.org">http://www.peatc.org</a></p>