

Arkansas

Early Intervention Years

Early Intervention

Connect with First Connections to create an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) which includes services, supports, and outcomes for children up to 3 years old.

Home and Community Service Programs

Contact Arkansas Dept. of Human Services to determine eligibility for Medicaid waivers such as Community and Employment Support Waivers (CES) or the Autism Waiver for individuals with disabilities.

First Responders

Informing local police and fire department of the details of your child's disability will make it easier for emergency responders to be successful if they are needed.

ABLE Account

Open this tax-free savings account in which individuals can hold additional money while maintaining government benefits.

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Elementary School Years

Home and Community

Service Programs

If there is a wait list, be sure to update and contact your office annually to stay informed and up to date.

Individual Education Program (IEP)

Develop this legal document with your school district. It describes special education services for an individual with a disability between the ages of 3-22.

Special Needs Planning

Attorneys

Consult with an estate planning attorney with expertise in special needs legal planning to assist with estate planning documents. Connect with either Academy of Special Needs Planners (ASNP) or Special Needs Alliance (SNA).

Care Guide (aka Letter of Intent)

Create this non-legal document to provide information for future caregivers. Update annually to reflect loved one's growth and changing interests and needs.

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Middle School Years

Home and Community Service Programs

Continue to update your information with your local state's office. Find your wait list number by calling 501-683-5687 or email DHS.DDS.Waiver.au@dhs.arkansas.gov.

Self-Advocacy

Identify interests and strengths in school and the community. These results should be documented as part of their transition plan.

IEP Transition Plan

Plan for your child's transition from adolescence to adulthood. This is one of the most important things you can do to pave the way to a successful future.

Government Benefits

Review eligibility requirements for benefits such as Medicaid, Social Security, and Medicare.

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High School/Transition Years

Home and Community

Service Programs

Contact your state's office to see when you may be eligible for services.

Transition Plan

Consider Post Secondary opportunities. Fully develop a transition plan and identify necessary adult services. Obtain a state ID card and register to vote, if applicable.

Guardianship, Powers of Attorney, and Supported Decision-Making

Determine which form of support, if any, is appropriate for the child when they turn 18.

Government Benefits

Connect with Social Security Administration at age 18 to apply for benefits.

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Adult Years

Transition Plan

Ensure plan encompasses all areas of adult living including work, leisure, self-advocacy, residential and post secondary education.

Housing

Consider independence of individual, location, and financial impact of housing decision.

Adult Service Agencies

Explore adult service providers for employment, transportation, day programs and living options.

Employment

Collaborate with transition team and vocational agencies such as the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS). Consider the non-financial benefits of employment.