

Tennessee

Early Intervention Years

Early Intervention

Connect with TN Early Intervention System (TEIS) 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

Determine eligibility by applying for Medicaid service programs through TennCare Connect for services 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 Regional Dept. of Disability and Aging 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 and needs with your Local Dept of Disability and Aging office.

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 local regional office of the Dept of Disability and Aging 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.

Tennessee 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 The Dept. of Human Services/Vocational Rehabilitation department
Consider the non-financial benefits of employment.