

Common Questions about Autism...& Answers!

How do I find out if my child is on the Autism Spectrum?

Your child will need to be diagnosed by a developmental pediatrician, neurologist, psychiatrist or psychologist as having Autism Spectrum Disorder. There is no physical test for the disorder currently, however, health care professionals will conduct a series of psychological and behavioral evaluations in order to determine if your child's typical behaviors match the diagnostic criteria for the disorder.

Providers in my area:

Diagnosing Clinicians:

- David Boyer-Hillcrest: ADOS testing (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule)
 - 413-499-2031
- Jackie Stores-Pittsfield
 - (413) 448-8302
- Siracusa Associates (Dr. William Goodman PSYD)-Williamstown
 - (413)-458-9600
- Berkshire Memory Services- Pittsfield
 - (413) 445-9944
- Metrowest Neurology (Lynn)
 - (508)-614-9449

Your primary care provider can also make a referral to other specialists in the Berkshires, Baystate, or Boston upon request

Therapy:

- **Ephrat David**-Great Barrington (413) 274-3340
- **Kate Hinds**-Great Barrington (413) 591-8802
- **Colleen Jordan**-Pittsfield (413) 348-5747
- **Thomas Miller**-Great Barrington (413) 528-2180
- **Allison Warnick**-Pittsfield (413) 429-1590
- **Milton Silverstein**-Lenox (413) 728-2340
- **Jennifer Daily**-Housatonic (413) 992-6776
- **Liz Greene**-Great Barrington (413) 776-4460
- **Elizabeth Frischkoff**-Great Barrington (413) 528-0477
- **Howland Associates**- (413)-664-4600
- **The Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse**-(413)-499-0412
- **Clinical and Support Options (CSO)**- (413)236-5656

What other agencies can I go to for help?

- **AdLib Inc.- (413) 442-7047**
- **Autism Connections (Pathlight) -(413) 443-4780**
- **BCArc- (413)-499-4241**
- **Department of Development Services (DDS) -(413) 236-2000**
- **Department of Mental Health (DMH) - (413) 395-2000**
- **Hillcrest- (413) 499-7924**
- **UCP- (413)-442-1562**
- **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission- (413) 236-3404**
- **Benchmark Behavioral Solutions-(413) 684-8619**
- **Berkshire Children & Families (Family Resource Center)- (413) 448-8281**

How can I get my child help in school?

- Send the school a letter requesting to have an evaluation as well as a follow up meeting for your child to determine whether or not they are eligible for an IEP (academics based) or a 504 plan (mental health/behavior based). If they are determined to be eligible they will be able to receive special accommodations through their plan. It is your right as a parent to request this and they are legally bound to follow through with the evaluation.

How can I get further support with this?

- The Family Resource Center as well as UCP provide educational advocates that are available to help you learn skills to advocate for your child's needs. You can call and request to put in a referral for your family. An advocate will then be assigned to you in order to help guide you in the process.