

Assistance Available for Children with Special Needs

Assistance is available to children with developmental delays or disabilities through County agencies or local school districts depending on age.

The New Jersey Early Intervention System, under the Division of Family Health Services, implements New Jersey's statewide system of services for infants and toddlers from birth to age three having developmental delays or disabilities. Parents, who believe that their infant or toddler may be experiencing developmental delays, can make a referral by calling the Regional System point of Entry toll free number at 1-888-653-4463. If found to be eligible, various services can be provided to the family and child.

For children aged three to 21, all Sussex County school districts offer varied educational programs and services. If parents suspect that their three to five year old child may be experiencing physical, sensory, emotional, communication, cognitive and/or social delays, they should contact their resident school district to discuss the services offered. The District's Child Study Team will make arrangements to evaluate the child. If found eligible, an individualized Educational Program (IEP) will be developed to provide the child with an appropriate plan.

For school aged children, parents should discuss concerns about their child's progress with the child's teacher, guidance counselor, and/or principal. Parents have the option of either making a referral to the RTI (Response to Intervention) Committee or to the Child Study Team (CST). RTI Committee offers intervention procedures that are provided within the regular education school program. At times, however, more extensive interventions than can be provided in a regular education setting are necessary to assist the student. Parents then have the option of requesting a full Child Study Team' evaluation in which the child's social, psychological, and academic status may be assessed. If necessary, medical or other specialized evaluations may be included in the assessment. If a child is found to be eligible for special education and related services, an individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed. This document includes a rationale for the student's educational placement and the details of the child's educational program. The following is a listing of all Sussex County Child Study Team offices/phone numbers. For further assistance, contact your local district.

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|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Andover Regional | 973-315-5255 | Lenape Valley Regional | 973-347-7600 |
| Byram Township | 973-347-1047 | Montague Township | 973-293-7131 |
| Frankford Township | 973-948-3727 | Newton Public Schools | 973-383-7307 |
| Franklin Borough | 973-827-9775 | Ogdensburg Borough | 973-827-7126 |
| Fredon Township | 973-383-4151 | Sandyston-Walpack | 973-948-4450 |
| Green Township | 973-300-3800 | Sparta Township | 973-729-3165 |
| Hamburg Borough | 973-827-7570 | Stanhope Borough | 973-347-0008 |
| Hampton Township | 973-383-5300 | Stillwater Township | 973-383-3998 |
| Hardyston Township | 973-823-7000 | Sussex County Charter | 973-383-3250 |
| High Point Regional | 973-875-3101 | Sussex County Technical | 973-383-6700 |
| Hopatcong Borough | 973-770-8821 | Sussex-Wantage Regional | 973-875-3175 |
| Kittatinny Regional | 973-383-1800 | Vernon Township | 973-764-2935 |
| Lafayette Township | 973-875-3344 | Wallkill Valley Regional | 973-827-4100 |