

Information for Families about GIDES (General Interdisciplinary Developmental Evaluation System)

GIDES is an evaluation service for young children in Whatcom County. At first, GIDES is focusing on children who may have autism. GIDES is made possible by a partnership including: Single Entry Access to Services (SEAS) at the Opportunity Council, The Arc of Whatcom County, the Whatcom County Health Department, Whatcom Taking Action for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, and PeaceHealth Medical Group.

How can a child get a GIDES evaluation?

- The child's pediatrician, or other Primary Care Provider (PCP), **must** send SEAS a referral for GIDES along with information about the child.

What can families expect once the PCP has sent a referral to SEAS for GIDES?

- When the SEAS navigator gets a referral from the PCP for GIDES, she calls the family to talk about the child and family's needs in all areas, so she can let the family know about all services that might be helpful to them, in addition to GIDES.
- The SEAS navigator sends the GIDES referral information to the GIDES care coordinator at The Arc.
- The care coordinator calls the family to let them know she received the referral and that they can call her if they have questions about the evaluation and/or if they need help connecting with other resources.
- When a GIDES appointment slot is available, the care coordinator calls to schedule an appointment for the family to meet with her and a nurse practitioner.
- After the family's appointment with the care coordinator and nurse practitioner, if GIDES recommends that the child should be evaluated by a pediatric specialist, (like Dr. Afridi, pediatric neurologist at PeaceHealth Medical Group), the nurse practitioner gives the specialist a thorough written report.
- The specialist's office calls the family to schedule an appointment for the specialist's evaluation.
- After the evaluation is complete, a care planning meeting is held with the family to develop a supportive plan of care.

In brief, what does GIDES include?

1. The family meets with the GIDES care coordinator and nurse practitioner to talk about the child's health and developmental history and to give other information, as needed.
2. When GIDES finds that the child should have a specialist's evaluation, (such as an autism evaluation with Dr. Afridi), GIDES gives the specialist a thorough report, including records that GIDES has gathered from the child's previous evaluations.
3. The family receives care coordination to help them find recommended treatment services, no matter what the child's final diagnosis is found to be.