

Who's on the Team for Kids with Special Needs?

Child's Family can:

- Call SEAS for navigation to resources
- Participate as a key member of child's team, by voicing their perspective and asking questions
- Take notes and keep records
- Connect with other families through Parent to Parent and The Arc
- Learn about the roles of the child's providers
- Freely express their emotional connection to their child, including their hopes, concerns, worries, & wishes

Child's Family cannot:

- Act as their child's therapist 24/7
- Be expected to attend meetings without reasonable prior notice

Schools can:

- Screen children ages 0 - 5 for possible developmental delay
- Evaluate children only as conditions relate to their educational needs
- If a child meets school eligibility criteria (see handout), provide services to support child's education, such as Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Transition Plans, Behavior Plans, PT, OT, SLP, counseling, or nursing (for health issues during school)
- Evaluate behaviors that affect a child's education (Functional Behavior Analysis)

Schools cannot:

- Provide medical diagnoses
- Evaluate for conditions unrelated to educational needs
- Provide neuropsychological evaluations
- Provide comprehensive case management

SEAS (Single Entry Access to Services) Phone Navigators can:

- Navigate to resources and services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN), including to screening and evaluation services, such as ESIT and GIDES.
- Navigate to CYSHCN-relevant information

SEAS Navigators cannot:

- Provide ongoing case management or care coordination
- Conduct evaluations of any kind
- Provide therapy or health care services

Primary Medical Health Care Providers can:

- Screen for developmental delays
- Provide medical diagnoses
- Prescribe medication
- Refer to specialists

Medical Health Care Providers cannot:

- Determine eligibility for school district or DDA services
- Provide comprehensive case management services

Community-Based Developmental Therapists (Physical, Occupational Therapists, and Speech-Language Pathologists) can:

- Evaluate children for delays or disabilities
- Provide diagnosis related to their area of practice
- Provide therapy treatment

Community-Based Developmental Therapists cannot:

- Determine eligibility for school district or DDA services
- Provide comprehensive case management services

GIDES (General Interdisciplinary Developmental Evaluation System) can:

- Evaluate for developmental delays and disabilities
- Refer to specialist for diagnoses if needed
- Provide GIDES evaluation report to specialist
- Provide care coordination and help getting services during the GIDES process

GIDES cannot:

- Provide ongoing care coordination services past the evaluation process
- Determine eligibility for school district or DDA services

There are too many types of mental/behavioral health providers to describe here what each type can and cannot do. For more detail, see handout.

Community-Based Behavioral/Mental Health Providers can:

- Prescribe medicine (Psychiatrists only)
- Screen for developmental delays and mental health conditions
- Diagnose mental health conditions and provide treatment (e.g., ADHD, Anxiety, etc.)
- Diagnose autism (Psychiatrists & Clinical Psychologists only)
- Provide Psychological and Neuropsychological Evaluations
- Provide Functional Behavior Analysis
- Provide counseling
- Provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Provide case management services

Community-Based Behavioral/Mental Health Providers cannot:

- Determine eligibility for school district or DDA services

Who's on the Team for Kids with Special Needs?

Here are a few of the many excellent websites that offer helpful information about health and school service providers for youth with special needs. This is not an endorsement of specific websites, but is just a place to start.

To learn more about pediatric specialists:



- Hearing Loss and Evaluations in Children**
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InfantsandChildren/HealthandSafety/EarlyHearingLoss>
<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/hear.html?ref=search&WT.ac=msh-p-dtop-en-search-clk#>
- Speech-Language Therapy**
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/speech-therapy.html?WT.ac=p-ra#catlearning>
- Your Child's Vision**
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/vision.html?ref=search&WT.ac=msh-p-dtop-en-search-clk>
- Physical Therapy** <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/physical-therapy.html?view=ptr&WT.ac=p-ptr>
- Occupational Therapy**
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/occupational-therapy.html?view=ptr&WT.ac=p-ptr>
- What's a Nurse Practitioner?**
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/nurse-practitioner.html?view=ptr&WT.ac=p-ptr>

To learn more about mental/behavioral health providers:



- Guide to Psychiatry and Counseling**
<http://www.webmd.com/mental-health/guide-to-psychiatry-and-counseling?print=true>
- Therapies for Autism Spectrum Disorder**
<http://www.webmd.com/brain/autism/autism-therapies-aba-rdi-and-sensory-therapies#1>

To learn more about services in schools:



- Behavior and Discipline**
<http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/Families/Behavior.aspx?printable=true>
- 504 Education Plans**
<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/504-plans.html?view=ptr&WT.ac=p-ptr>
- Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)**
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/iep.html?view=ptr&WT.ac=p-ptr>
- The Difference Between a School Identification and a Clinical Diagnosis**
<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/special-education-basics/the-difference-between-a-school-identification-and-a-clinical-diagnosis>
- Eligibility for Special Education**
<http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/Families/Eligibility.aspx>