

Autism Related Services in Whatcom County, Regional and Nationwide

The easiest way to find services and support for your family and child (ages birth to 21) is to call SEAS for service navigation by a local, knowledgeable and caring person.

SEAS
Single Entry Access to Services
phone: 360.715.7485
fax: 360.676.6729

For a comprehensive [Resource Directory](#) and helpful informational tools, visit www.whatcomtakingaction.org

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Autism is a complex developmental disability; signs typically appear during early childhood and affect a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum condition" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause of autism, but increased awareness and early diagnosis/intervention and access to appropriate services/ supports lead to significantly improved outcomes. - Information provided by the Autism Society www.autism-society.org

Support & Social Groups

Parent to Parent of Whatcom County (360) 715-0170
Offers parent support groups, peer matches, and family networking events.

Online Facebook support groups can be very helpful:

P2P: Whatcom County

www.facebook.com/groups/1289791781074855

Bellingham Moms of Children with Special Needs

www.facebook.com/groups/bellinghammothersofspecialneedschildren

Whatcom "Sensational" Parents

www.facebook.com/groups/whatcomsensationalparents

Bellingham Autism Moms & Dads

www.facebook.com/groups/1030189507069519

Autism ♡ Support Group - offers monthly meet-ups

www.facebook.com/groups/1809136672498381/

County, State and Federal Support

Social Security Administration (SSA) (800) 772-1213

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) offers funds for eligible children.

Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

(360) 714-5000 <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda>

DDA can provide lifelong support for children eligible for their services including personal care, respite, and funds for assistive technology and home modifications.

Autism Information, Support & Advocacy

The Arc of Whatcom County (360) 715-0170

Provides one on one information, trainings, an [events calendar](#), and a lending library to help you navigate support services. www.arcwhatcom.org

Seattle Children's Autism Center (206)987-8080

Provides evaluation and treatment services as well as online resources including:

[Autism 101](#) and [Autism 200](#) series- live stream

Autism Center [Family Resources](#)

UW Autism Center

(206) 221-6806

Offers evaluation & clinical services, provides trainings, and conducts research on autism.

<https://depts.washington.edu/uwautism/>

Autism Speaks

www.autismspeaks.org

National organization that has several helpful toolkits on topics of interest such as Autism 101 and medication.

Autism Society

www.autism-society.org

National organization that has a Washington state chapter <http://autismsocietyofwa.org/v2/>

Special Programs & Services Lending Library

Books, DVDS, and curriculum materials which cover autism and other subjects related to children with special needs. <https://www.nwesd.org/lendinglibrary/>

Washington Autism Alliance and Advocacy (WAAA)

(425) 894-7231 www.washingtonautismadvocacy.org

Helpful resource for insurance and education issues.

Insurance & Medical

WA State Health Care Authority

State agency that oversees Apple Health (Medicaid) and public employee benefits. www.hca.wa.gov

They maintain a complete list of **Autism Centers of**

Excellence: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/autism-and-applied-behavioral-analysis>

Early Intervention - Birth to Three

Enroll your child in [Early Support for Infants and](#)

[Toddlers](#) (ESIT) - Contact [Single Entry Access to](#)

[Services](#) (SEAS) at (360)715-7485 for an evaluation to see if your child qualifies.

School District Contact Information – ages 3 to 21

Contact your school district and ask them to give your child an evaluation for special services. If your child qualifies, they may be able to receive: developmental preschool, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and/or therapies such as speech and occupational therapy

Bellingham Schools: 360-676-6458 Special Education Office specialeducation@bellingshamschools.org 1306 Dupont St, Bellingham, 98225	Blaine School District: 360-332-0722 Federal & Special Programs Randy Elsbree, Director relsbree@blainesd.org 770 Mitchell Avenue, Blaine, WA 98230
Ferndale School District: 360-383-9212 Student Services Department www.ferndalesd.org/student-services PO Box 698, 6041 Vista Dr, Ferndale 98248	Lynden School District: 360-354-2893 Special Programs Office Tim Metz, Director metzt@lynden.wednet.edu 205 S. BC Ave. Suite 115, Lynden, WA 98264
Meridian School District: 360-398-9898 Aaron Jacoby, Director of Special Services ajacoby@meridian.wednet.edu x2155 214 W. Laurel Road, Bellingham, WA 98226	Mt. Baker School District: 360-383-2012 Ian Linterman, Director of Special Programs ilinterman@mtbaker.wednet.edu PO Box 95, Deming, WA 98244
Nooksack Valley School District: 360-988-4754 Carol Lagasse, Admin. Asst., Special Services carol.lagasse@nv.k12.wa.us x 5296 3326 E. Badger Road, Everson, WA, 98247	Lummi Nation School: 360-758-4300 Willetta George, Director of Special Education Willetta.George@lummi-k12.org x 4319 2334 Lummi View Dr., Bellingham, WA 98226

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

ABA is a method used to reduce challenging behaviors and to help people gain and improve skills including language, attention, social awareness, self-help, and play. ABA is very effective for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and similar developmental disabilities.

Whatcom ABA providers:

[Bayside Autism](#)

425-429-4793

[Endless Potential, LLC](#)

360-930-6063

[Pacific Northwest Autism](#)

360-348-6414

[Rehab Without Walls / Neurosolutions](#)

(425) 673-6911

[Sendan Center](#)

360-305-3275

Whatcom Speech/Language (SLP), Occupational (OT), and Physical Therapy (PT) providers:

These therapies can help your child with communication, motor skills, sensory issues, & daily activities

<u>Bayside Autism</u> 425-429-4793 SLP	<u>Connections</u> 360-756-1495 SLP	<u>Harmony Physical Therapy</u> 360-441-6053 PT	<u>Integrative Physical Therapy Services</u> 360-715-8686 PT
<u>Kids in Motion</u> SLP OT 412-444-5437	<u>Catalyst Therapies</u> SLP 360-389-3468	<u>Kornerstone Kids</u> SLP PT OT 360-752-1115	<u>Pacific Kids Therapy</u> OT 360-393-6210
<u>PeaceHealth Medical Group Children's Therapy</u> 360-752-5622 SLP OT PT		<u>Pediatric NDT and SI Therapy Services</u> 360-398-2772 OT	
<u>Sendan Center</u> SLP 360-305-3275		<u>Washington Elks Therapy Program</u> OT 800-825-3557	
<u>Whatcom Physical Therapy</u> PT 360-332-8167		<u>WWU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic</u> SLP 360-650-3881	

I need a break! Where can I get some help?

- [Parent to Parent](#) has a list of [Super Sitters](#) who have extra training. Call 360-715-0170.
- [DDA](#) may be able to provide Personal Care and Respite services for eligible clients. (See above.)
- [FACES Northwest](#) has a summer program for children with autism. Call 360-389-2151.
- [Ray of Hope](#) is a camp for children with emotional and behavioral challenges. Call 360-714-0700.
- [Max Higbee Center](#) offers recreational activities for youth with developmental disabilities ages 14 & up.
- [Buddy Break](#) is a free respite program designed to give caregivers of kids with special needs a break.
- For more ideas, check [Bellingham Parks & Recreation](#), [Special Olympics](#), [CSHCN Center's Summer Camp Directory](#), and Whatcom Taking Action's [Respite Handout](#).