DEFINITION OF DISABILITY RESOURCES & HOME EDUCATION

How to receive a diagnosis, ways to advocate for your child, and related resources.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Family Support:

Family Connections
Provides resources, support, and education for families and parents with disabilities and special healthcare needs.
(800) 578-8750
familyconnections.sc.org

South Carolina Autism Society
Provides case management, educational mentoring and planning, information, referral and resources, outreach, and training for persons and professionals affected by an autism spectrum disorder.
(803) 750-6988
scautism.org

SC DHEC
Provides a list of agencies and organizations that assists and serves individuals with disabilities.
(803) 898-3301
scdhec.gov

Autism in Black
Provides support to melanated parents with autistic children, through educational and advocacy services. Autism in Black is dedicated to bringing awareness to Autism and reducing the stigma in the black community.
autisminblack.org

Transitional Services:

ABLE South Carolina
They provide advocacy, peer support, youth transition services, and more for people with disabilities.
Columbia (803) 779-5212, (800) 681-6805
Greenville (864) 235-1424, (800) 681-7715
www.able-sc.org

The Arc of South Carolina
The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetime.
(803) 748-5020
www.arcsc.org

Assistive Technology Services:

SC Assistive Technology Program
Offers assistive technology expertise to South Carolina residents with disabilities through workshops, device loans and demonstrations.
(803)935-5263
www.SC.edu

South Carolina Talking Book Services
A free library service for individuals that have a visual or physical impairment that prevents them from reading printed books.
Local (803) 734-4611,
Toll free (800)922-7818
sctalkingbook.org

GET IN TOUCH

We at Akoma Cares believe that it takes a village. If you’d like more information on support and resources in the community, we’re here to help.

CONTACT US:

803-470-4666
www.akomacares.org
dpss@akomacares.org

GETTING STARTED:

DISABILITY RESOURCES & HOME EDUCATION

How to receive a diagnosis, ways to advocate for your child, and related resources.
If you suspect your child has a developmental disability:

1. Explain your child's development (such as, but not limited to, behavior, language, thinking, social, or motor skills milestones) to your pediatrician. Your pediatrician may refer you to a Developmental Behavioral pediatrician who can further evaluate.

2. If you are referred by your pediatrician, you may contact the developmental behavioral pediatrician office for a follow up to ensure the referral is received. There is usually a completion process before an appointment is scheduled.

3. Once the referral is received, the office will contact you to obtain information about your child for further assessment. If a diagnosis is determined after an evaluation is completed, the developmental behavioral pediatrician may continue to treat your child. In addition, the developmental behavioral pediatrician may make recommendations for strategies, accommodations, services, and therapies according to your child's individual needs.

Remember: A parent ALWAYS has a right to get their child tested even if the pediatrician decides to oppose the referral.

Homeschooling children with disabilities has its set of challenges and finding specific resources is one of them. Below you’ll find a few resources that can make homeschooling a child with a disability easier.

Ways You Can Advocate For Your Child

- **Be Involved.** Get to know your child's pediatrician, therapists, teachers, and counselors. Let them know that you are there to support your child. Learn the information they are giving you, and remain consistent in utilizing the strategies and educational tools given. Share your own ideas and gather insight. You are a part of the team!

- **Learn and Understand Your Child.** You are your child's first teacher. You know them best. Take the time to observe, learn, and understand your child's thought process, behavior, and development. You can help your child's professional circle become even greater because you are attentive to your child's successes, progression, and challenges.

- **Participate in the Community.** There are advocacy groups in the community that parents can be a part of. There are many opportunities to serve in a group, on a panel, or become a part of a committee. Or, you may want to start something on your own. Research has shown that better decisions are made about programs and services for children when families are involved in the process.

Homeschool Resources

- **Able2Learn**
  www.able2learn.com
  An extensive collection of downloadable lessons, books, worksheets, and other educational resources designed to help children with autism and other developmental disabilities master the skills necessary to succeed in their education and build a foundation for independence.

- **Community Reading Project**
  http://communityreading.org/wp/
  Help older students with dyslexia and other reading challenges learn to read or improve their reading skills. There are online lessons in blending, phonics, spelling, grammar, fluency, and comprehension.

- **Homeschooling with Dyslexia**
  https://homeschoolingwithdyslexia.com
  Resources, curriculum options for parents homeschooling children with dyslexia.

- **SPED Homeschool**
  https://spedhomeschool.com
  Free resources and successful at home teaching strategies for families homeschooling children with disabilities.