



## FAMILY (lifespan)

Families are the primary decision makers for children's healthy development. Families are responsible for:

- Choosing culturally and linguistically competent support and service providers
- Setting goals
- Designing, implementing, and evaluating programs
- Monitoring outcomes
- Partnering in funding decisions
- Engaging in policy and procedure governing care for all children

When a **CHILD** demonstrates a need  
**PARENTS/CAREGIVERS** respond to a child's needs by providing care and seeking additional resources

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

- Medicaid
- ALL Kids
- Private Insurance

**NATURAL SUPPORTS**

- Grandparents, Relatives, Neighbors, Friends, Teachers, Faith-based & Other Community Partners

**SEEK ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

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**ADVOCACY**    **MONITOR PROGRESS**

## DECISION MAKING

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

- FOOD ASSISTANCE DIVISION Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- FAMILY ASSISTANCE DIVISION Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) [dhr.alabama.gov](http://dhr.alabama.gov)

**ALABAMA NETWORK OF FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS**

Located around the state to serve and assist families by identifying and addressing barriers to success | [nfronline.homestead.com](http://nfronline.homestead.com)

**COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES**

Provide direct social services to families with low and moderate incomes | [caalabama.org](http://caalabama.org)



## MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SERVICES

Families should utilize preventive care services available, including screenings, and connect to a medical and dental home.

**PREGNANCY/PRENATAL** → **OBGYN**

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**BIRTH** → **Home Visiting** → **Child care** → **CHD, WIC, ETC.**

**Pediatric care provider**

**MEDICAL HOME PEDIATRICIAN, FAMILY PHYSICIAN**

Preventive care: immunizations, well child exams including dental, hearing, vision and developmental screening  
 Coverage through Medicaid EPSDT, ALL Kids, or private insurance

**COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (CHD)**

WIC, nutrition, breastfeeding, well child exams, and dental services

**SPECIALITY CARE**

**DENTAL HOME**

Exams, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride, fillings, extractions, specialty care, etc.

Developmental and Mental Health Concerns

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**Early Intervention**    **Children's Rehabilitation Service** [rehab.alabama.gov](http://rehab.alabama.gov)    **LEA**

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

- AL Department of Mental Health [mh.alabama.gov](http://mh.alabama.gov)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness [namialabama.org](http://namialabama.org)
- Mental Health Resource Directory [alabamamentalhealth.org](http://alabamamentalhealth.org)

• Local Education Agency (ages 3 through 5)



## ALABAMA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM (ages 0 through 2)

Early Intervention is a voluntary system for children who meet eligibility criteria with developmental delays or conditions known to cause developmental delays in one or more of the following: physical, communication, cognitive, adaptive, social or emotional. [rehab.alabama.gov/individuals-and-families/early-intervention](http://rehab.alabama.gov/individuals-and-families/early-intervention)

Child may be screened with ASQ-3 and/or ASQ-SE, but not required

Family, pediatric care provider, or other community service may refer to Child Find

Service Coordinator will arrange evaluation(s) to determine eligibility

**Eligible**    **Ineligible**

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed by team

Early Intervention Services are individualized, developmentally appropriate and evidence-based, training for the caregiver, family centered, collaborative, routines-based and in a natural environment.

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**Home health provider, community resources, and/or developmental monitoring and support**

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**At age 3, transition to LEA and/or HMG with family's permission**



## SERVICES FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (ages 3 through 5)

Special education services are provided for preschool children with disabilities who meet eligibility criteria of the *Alabama Administrative Code*. To qualify, the disability must adversely affect the child's participation and progress in age appropriate activities.

Request for Initial Evaluation received by Local Education Agency (LEA)

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team determines the need for evaluation

**Yes**    **No**

Written parental consent for initial evaluation obtained

Initial evaluation completed within 60 days of LEA receipt of consent for the initial evaluation

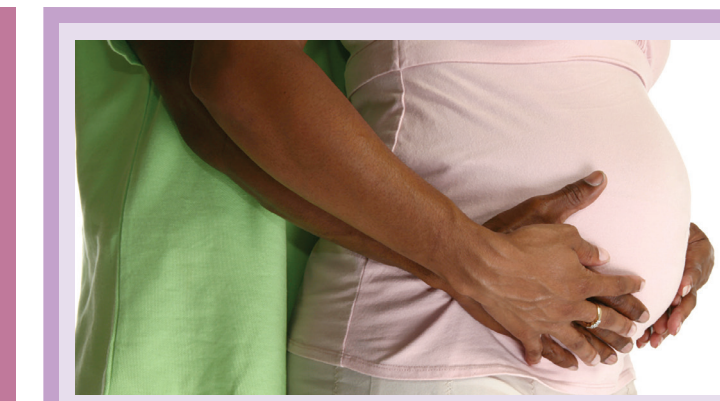
Eligibility for special education services determined within 30 days of completion of initial evaluation. If eligible...

IEP developed by team within 30 days of eligibility determination

Written parental consent obtained for provision of special education services in the LEA

Help Me Grow Alabama Dial 2-1-1

**Home health provider, community resources, and/or developmental monitoring and support**



## HOME VISITING (prenatal through age 5)

Home Visiting programs exist throughout the state to provide services to help strengthen at-risk families. [children.alabama.gov](http://children.alabama.gov) or [ctf.state.al.us](http://ctf.state.al.us). Primary models include:

**Nurse Family Partnership (prenatal through 2)**  
 First time moms must enroll by 28 weeks gestation

**Parents as Teachers (0 through 5)**  
 Individual home visits and group meetings

**Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI) (3 through 5)**  
 Individual home visits and group meetings

Home Visiting programs conduct screenings that address the following areas:

- Access to Health Care
- Mental Health of Family
- Social-Emotional Development
- School Readiness
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Domestic Violence
- Parenting Styles and Guidance

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**Family Resource Centers**

**Pediatric care provider and/or OBGYN as partner**

**Early Intervention**

**LEA**

**CHD**

**Department of Human Resources**



## CHILD CARE (age 0+)

Any quality licensed child care center, certified family home, or half day/preschool. [dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child\\_Care\\_Services/Child\\_Care\\_Services\\_Division.aspx](http://dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child_Care_Services/Child_Care_Services_Division.aspx)

**Family seeking child care**    **If current child care provider in need of assistance**

List of available child care providers for families [dhr.alabama.gov/daycare/daycare\\_search.aspx](http://dhr.alabama.gov/daycare/daycare_search.aspx)

Contact regional Child Care Management Agency

Contact Department of Human Resources 1-866-528-1694

Child experiences social/emotional, behavioral or developmental concerns

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Conduct screening using a reliable screening instrument

**Pediatric care provider as partner**

**Early Intervention**

**LEA**



## EARLY HEAD START/ HEAD START (prenatal through age 5)

Early Head Start/Head Start (EHS/HS) is a federally funded program that serves low income pregnant women and children through age 5. Programs are designed locally based on community needs, may be center-based or home visiting, and promote school readiness. | [children.alabama.gov](http://children.alabama.gov)

All EHS/HS children receive comprehensive screening with results discussed with parents: health, developmental, hearing, vision, and dental.

**HEALTH CONCERN IDENTIFIED**    **DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS IDENTIFIED**    **NO DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY OR CONCERN IDENTIFIED**

With parent permission, make referral to pediatric care provider

Continued support and ongoing assessment of child's progress in order to plan and individualize response for each child

Emerging concerns or lack of progress

Help Me Grow Alabama Dial 2-1-1

**Early Intervention**

**LEA**



## FIRST CLASS PRE-K (age 4)

First Class Pre-K is Alabama's state funded pre-kindergarten program. All children who are 4 years old by September 1 of the year and residents of Alabama are eligible. | [children.alabama.gov](http://children.alabama.gov)

All Pre-K children receive comprehensive screening with results discussed with parents: health, developmental, hearing, vision, and dental.

**HEALTH CONCERN IDENTIFIED**    **DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS IDENTIFIED**    **NO DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY OR CONCERN IDENTIFIED**

With parent permission, make referral to pediatric care provider

Continued support and ongoing assessment of child's progress in order to plan and individualize response for each child

Emerging concerns or lack of progress

Help Me Grow Alabama Dial 2-1-1

**LEA**

**NOTE:**

- Home Visiting
- Early Head Start/Head Start
- and
- First Class Pre-K

are not available in all areas of the state.



# ACCESS GUIDE TO EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PRENATAL THROUGH AGE 5

The purpose of this guide is to help early childhood professionals and service providers refer young children (prenatal through age 5) and their families to appropriate Alabama services. The vision is for families to have the support they need across all medical, educational, developmental, and social-emotional services.

## HELP ME GROW MISSION:

- To promote the optimal development of young children by linking families to information, providing effective care coordination, and facilitating partnerships within the community to improve the accessibility and quality of services for families.

- Help Me Grow Alabama is a free information and referral line that utilizes 2-1-1
- Connects Alabama to help connect families of children birth to age eight to health and developmental resources in their community, as well as developmental monitoring and support. Families may dial 2-1-1, enroll online at [helpmegrowalabama.org](http://helpmegrowalabama.org), or providers can refer families to one of our Regional Care Coordinators.

## FAMILY

**Parenting Assistance Line** is a call line staffed by parenting resource specialists. PAL is for anyone who wants information and support in becoming a more confident parent. 1-866-962-3030 | [pal.ua.edu](http://pal.ua.edu)

## MEDICAL, DENTAL, & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SERVICES

**Medicaid** 1-800-362-1504 | [medicaid.alabama.gov](http://medicaid.alabama.gov)

**Well Child Check-Up** is a Medicaid program that provides Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT). EPSDT provides preventative health care for children and teens; specialty health care for medically necessary services. [medicaid.alabama.gov/content/4.0\\_programs/4.4.0\\_medical\\_services/4.4.3\\_EPSDT.aspx](http://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/4.0_programs/4.4.0_medical_services/4.4.3_EPSDT.aspx)

**ALL Kids: Alabama Children's Health Insurance Program** is for children under the age of 19 who do not have health insurance and whose family income is above the Medicaid income level and below 300 percent of the federal poverty level. 1-888-373-5437 | [adph.org/allkids/](http://adph.org/allkids/)

**CHD: County Health Departments** provide immunization, infectious disease services, and case management services. Contact your local CHD to determine if well child exams or dental services are provided. [adph.org/administration/Default.asp?id=505](http://adph.org/administration/Default.asp?id=505)

**WIC: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** is administered by CHD; provides services including food benefits, nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling and support, and referrals for pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5 who meet the qualifications for participation in the WIC program. 1-334-206-5673 [adph.org/wic/](http://adph.org/wic/)

**Children's Rehabilitation Service** provides quality medical, rehabilitative, coordination and support services for children with special health care needs and their families. 1-800-441-7607 [rehab.alabama.gov/individuals-and-families/childrens-rehabilitation-service](http://rehab.alabama.gov/individuals-and-families/childrens-rehabilitation-service)

**Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation** provides support for early childhood programs and parents to address social and emotional concerns of young children. State Coordinator at Department of Early Childhood Education. 1-334-353-2700

## EARLY INTERVENTION

**Child Find** is the statewide, toll-free Early Intervention number. 1-800-543-3098 [rehab.alabama.gov/individuals-and-families/early-intervention](http://rehab.alabama.gov/individuals-and-families/early-intervention)

## CHILD CARE

**Office of Child Care Subsidy** provides Alabama's low and moderate-income families with equal access to affordable and quality child care services. 1-866-528-1694 [dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child\\_Care\\_Services/Subsidy\\_Overview.aspx](http://dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child_Care_Services/Subsidy_Overview.aspx)

**Child Care Management Agencies** supply resources and referrals for families and child care providers. | [dhr.alabama.gov/counties/daycare\\_agency.aspx](http://dhr.alabama.gov/counties/daycare_agency.aspx)

**Child Care Quality Enhancement Agencies** deliver training and technical assistance for child care providers to improve quality, health, safety, and nutrition. [dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child\\_Care\\_Services/CCQuality\\_Enhancement\\_Agencies.aspx](http://dhr.alabama.gov/services/Child_Care_Services/CCQuality_Enhancement_Agencies.aspx)

**Don't Be In The Dark About Child Care** offers research and recommendations regarding high quality child care. 1-866-711-4025 | [alabamachildcarefacts.org](http://alabamachildcarefacts.org)

## OTHER ALABAMA RESOURCES

**2-1-1 Connects Alabama** is a statewide call system of information and referral whose mission is to provide easy access to health and human services available throughout Alabama. Dial 2-1-1 | [211connectsalabama.org](http://211connectsalabama.org)

**Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education** coordinates First Teacher Home Visitation programs and First Class Pre-K programs, and houses the Head Start Collaboration Office for the state. 1-334-353-2700 | [children.alabama.gov](http://children.alabama.gov)

**Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP)** is the state's protection and advocacy program that advocates for children with special needs. ADAP provides legal services to Alabamians with disabilities to protect, promote and expand their rights. 1-205-348-4928 | [adap.net](http://adap.net)

**Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council** is a network of leaders developing a comprehensive system of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families. [autism.alabama.gov](http://autism.alabama.gov)

**Autism Society of Alabama** improves services for persons with autism spectrum disorder and their families through education and advocacy. 1-877-428-8476 | [autism-alabama.org](http://autism-alabama.org)

**Regional Autism Network** works to connect people with autism spectrum disorder, their families, educators, and service providers to the information and/or services that best meet their needs. 1-205-478-3402

**Alabama Department of Education** provides oversight and special education services for preschool (age 3) to age 21. 1-334-242-9700 Alabama Special Education Services 1-334-242-8114 | [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu)

## OTHER ALABAMA RESOURCES *Continued*

**Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention** the state's Children's Trust Fund, advocates for children and the strengthening of families throughout Alabama. 1-334-262-2951 | [ctf.alabama.gov](http://ctf.alabama.gov)

To **Report Child Abuse and Neglect** contact your county Department of Human Resources. [dhr.alabama.gov/counties/county\\_select.aspx](http://dhr.alabama.gov/counties/county_select.aspx)

**Family Voices of Alabama** provides support and information to families who have children with special health care needs and/or disabilities, and the professionals who work with them. 1-877-771-3862 | [www.familyvoicesal.org](http://www.familyvoicesal.org)

**First 5 Alabama** is the Alabama Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and supports professionals in obtaining credentials and Endorsement® to provide consultation services in early childhood settings. 1-866-711-4025

## NATIONAL WEBSITE RESOURCES

**American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:** [aacap.org](http://aacap.org)

**American Academy of Pediatrics:** [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org)

**Autism Society of America:** [autism-society.org](http://autism-society.org)

**Autism Speaks:** [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)

**Born Learning:** [bornlearning.org](http://bornlearning.org)

**Center for Child and Human Development:** [gucchd.georgetown.edu](http://gucchd.georgetown.edu)

**Center for the Study of Social Policy – Strengthening Families Initiative:** [strengtheningfamilies.net](http://strengtheningfamilies.net)

**First Signs:** [firstsigns.org](http://firstsigns.org)

**Help Me Grow National:** [helpmegrownational.org](http://helpmegrownational.org)

**Learn the Signs. Act Early:** [cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html](http://cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html)

**National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health:** [ffcmh.org](http://ffcmh.org)

**National Institute of Mental Health:** [nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml](http://nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml)

**Reach Out and Read:** [reachoutandread.org](http://reachoutandread.org)

**Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration:** [samhsa.gov](http://samhsa.gov)

**Vroom** supports parents and caregivers with ways to boost early learning through creative tools and materials: [joinvroom.org](http://joinvroom.org)

**Zero to Three:** [zerotothree.org](http://zerotothree.org)



## REGIONAL MAP

### 1. HMG Northwest Alabama

Phone: 256-764-5892 | Fax: 256-764-0088  
Email: [helpmegrownwal@gmail.com](mailto:helpmegrownwal@gmail.com)

### 2. HMG North Alabama

Phone: 256-705-6768 | Fax: 256-716-0663  
Email: [helpmegrow@csna.org](mailto:helpmegrow@csna.org)

### 3. HMG West Alabama

Phone: 205-348-4026 | Fax: 205-348-0660  
Email: [helpmegrow@ches.ua.edu](mailto:helpmegrow@ches.ua.edu)

### 4. HMG Central Alabama

Phone: 205-458-2070 | Fax: 205-458-2196  
Email: [helpmegrow@uwca.org](mailto:helpmegrow@uwca.org)

### 5. HMG Northeast Alabama

Phone: 256-547-2581 | Fax: 256-546-4360  
Email: [helpmegrowec@uwoec.org](mailto:helpmegrowec@uwoec.org)

### 6. HMG River Region

Phone: 334-264-3335 | Fax: 334-264-9182  
Email: [helpmegrow@handsonriverregion.org](mailto:helpmegrow@handsonriverregion.org)

### 7. HMG East Alabama

Phone: 334-745-5540 | Fax: 334-745-5606  
Email: [helpmegrow@unitedwayofleecounty.com](mailto:helpmegrow@unitedwayofleecounty.com)

### 8. HMG South Alabama

Phone: 251-431-5100 | Fax: 251-431-5117  
Email: [helpmegrow@lifelinesmobile.org](mailto:helpmegrow@lifelinesmobile.org)

### 9. HMG Wiregrass

Phone: 334-836-1963 | Fax: 334-836-1965  
Email: [helpmegrow9@gmail.com](mailto:helpmegrow9@gmail.com)



PLEASE HELP US  
IMPROVE THIS GUIDE!

Visit [smartstartalabama.org/feedback](http://smartstartalabama.org/feedback)  
or email comments to [info@smartstartalabama.org](mailto:info@smartstartalabama.org)

#### For more information:

Alabama Partnership for Children  
[smartstartalabama.org](http://smartstartalabama.org)  
2529 Bell Road • Montgomery, AL 36117  
1-334-271-0304 • 1-866-711-4025

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“Every Alabama Child Will Have the Opportunity to Succeed in Life”