



## **Florida's Early Steps Directory**

**Statewide information and resources for parents or caregivers of children with diagnosed or suspected developmental delays or disabilities from birth to three years of age, providers, and other interested groups or individuals.**

Send any questions or requests to be added to the directory to:

[EarlyStepsDirectory@flhealth.gov](mailto:EarlyStepsDirectory@flhealth.gov)

Visit our website at **EarlyStepsDirectory.com**

This directory provides information on the following resources

- **Public & Private Early Intervention Services in Florida** **Page 3**  
This includes contact information for Local Early Steps Office across the state, which coordinate the system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C.  
You will also be able to search for qualified personnel who provide early intervention services designed to meet the developmental needs of infants and toddlers.
- **Support Groups/Organizations & Parent Training and Information Centers** **Page 4**  
This includes information about professional groups, parent support groups, and training and information centers.  
These groups and organizations provide assistance to infants and toddlers eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C and their families.
- **Florida Resources and Experts** **Page 5**  
This includes resources and experts available in Florida who have special skills or knowledge related to the unique needs of infants and toddlers and their families.  
These organizations provide support, assistance and advocacy in communities across Florida.
- **National Resources and Experts** **Page 7**  
This includes resources and experts who have special skills or knowledge related to the unique needs of infants and toddlers and their families.  
These organizations provide support, assistance and advocacy across the nation.
- **Florida Pilot, Research and Demonstration Projects** **Page 9**  
This includes information on research and demonstration projects being conducted in Florida relating to infants and toddlers with disabilities.  
These projects establish or confirm facts, develop new methods or demonstrate a particular approach related to early intervention supports and services.

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# Public & Private Early Intervention Services in Florida

## Where Can I Refer My Child for Early Intervention Services?

[Find the Local Early Steps office](#) -- address, contact person, phone number and email for the office that provides services in your area.

Go to: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/contact/earlysteps.pdf>

[Find providers](#) that are qualified to meet the unique needs of children with special health care needs.

Go to: <https://www.cmskidsproviders.com/eis/PublicSearch.aspx>

- You may search for a specific approved individual provider by name, or get a listing of approved providers available by program, specialty or county.
- Select “Early Steps” under “CMS programs” to narrow your search to Early Steps providers, who specialize in serving infants and toddlers.
- Note that in Early Steps, services and providers are determined by each child’s Individualized Early Support Plan (IFSP) team assigned by the Local Early Steps Office.

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## Support Groups/Organizations & Parent Training and Information Centers

**Central Florida Parent Center** - provides parents of children and young adults with all disabilities and special needs (ages 0-26) in central and northeast Florida with information and support

**Website:** <http://www.centralfloridaparentcenter.org>

**Phone:** (888) 61-AWARE (612-9273)

**Family Network on Disabilities of Florida** – a grassroots organization for persons with disabilities and their families that is family-centered and family-driven.

**Website:** [www.fndusa.org](http://www.fndusa.org)

**Phone:** (800) 825-5736

**Parent to Parent of Miami** - a community parent resource center serving parents of children with disabilities in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties

**Website:** [www.ptopmiami.org](http://www.ptopmiami.org)

**Phone:** (305) 271-9797

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## Florida Resources and Experts

**The ARC of Florida, Inc.** – resources for parents of children with disabilities.

**Website:** [www.arcflorida.org](http://www.arcflorida.org)

**Phone:** (800) 226-1155

**Bureau of Exceptional Education & Student Services (BEESS)** - administers programs for students with disabilities and for gifted students.

**Website:** <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/>

**Phone:** (850) 245-0475

**Children's Forum** – provides programs, special projects, events and publications for families, providers and communities

**Website:** <http://www.fcforum.org/>

**Phone:** (888) FL-CHILD (352-4453)

**Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.** – advocates and promotes meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities.

**Website:** [www.fddc.org](http://www.fddc.org)

**Phone:** (800) 580-7801

**Disability Rights Florida Disability Rights Florida** - protection and advocacy system for the State of Florida with mission to advance the quality of life, dignity, equality, self-determination, and freedom of choice of persons with disabilities

**Website:** <http://www.disabilityrightsflorida.org/>

**Phone:** (800) 342-0823

**TDD:** (800) 346-4127

**The Family Café, Inc.** – brings together individuals with disabilities and their families with state agencies, non-profit organizations and other service providers for networking opportunities.

**Website:** <http://www.familycafe.org>

**Phone:** (888) 309-CAFÉ (2233)

**Florida Association for Infant Mental Health** – focused on prevention, identification and treatment of emotional and behavioral disorders in children birth to age 5

**Website:** <http://faimh.org/>

**Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (FLASHA)** - serves the needs of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists in the State of Florida

**Website:** [www.flasha.org](http://www.flasha.org)

**Phone:** (800) 243-3574

**E-Mail:** [flasha@flasha.org](mailto:flasha@flasha.org)

**Florida Child Care Resource and Referral** - Provides access to affordable, quality early learning services for the state's children and families

**Website:** <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com>

**Phone:** 1-(866) FLREADY (357-3239).

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## Florida Resources and Experts (continued)

**Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS)** - provides diagnostic, instructional, and technology support services to district exceptional education programs and families of students with disabilities

**Website:** <http://www.fdlrs.org/>

**Phone:** (386) 312-2265

**Florida Head Start** - provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to children from low-income families

**Website:** <http://www.floridaheadstart.org/>

**Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)** - authorized by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to advise and assist public and private agencies in implementing a statewide system of early intervention services

**Website:** <http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/FloridaICC/>

**Florida Occupational Therapy Association (FOTA)** - supports, develops and represents the occupational therapy profession for the advancement of the practice and to better serve the consumer

**Website:** [www.flota.org](http://www.flota.org)

**Florida Physical Therapy Association** – serves the needs of physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and physical therapy students in the State of Florida.

**Website:** [www.fpta.org/](http://www.fpta.org/)

**Phone:** (850) 222-1243

**Help Me Grow Florida** - designed to address the need for early identification of developmental and/or behavioral concerns, and then to link children and their families to community-based developmental and behavioral services and supports

**Website:** <http://www.fddc.org/node/2292>

**Phone:** (800) 580-7801

**TDD Toll Free:** (888) 488-8633

**March of Dimes/Florida Chapter** - programs and services in communities across Florida, we promote healthy pregnancies and babies

**Website:** [www.marchofdimes.org/florida/](http://www.marchofdimes.org/florida/)

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## National Resources and Experts

**AbleNet, Assistive Technology/Devices** - educational and technical solutions to help children and adults with disabilities lead productive and fulfilled lives.

**Website:** [www.ablenetinc.com](http://www.ablenetinc.com)

**Phone:** (800) 322-0956

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information** - information and technical assistance about the Americans with Disabilities Act

**Website:** <http://www.ada.gov/>

**Phone:** (800) 514-0301 (voice)

**TTY:** (800) 514-0383

**Autism Speaks** - funding for research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families

**Website:** <http://www.autismspeaks.org>

**Phone:** (888) 288-4762

**En Español** (888) 772-9050

**Beach Center on Families and Disability** - research and training center committed to making a significant and sustainable positive difference in the quality of life of individuals and families affected by disability and the professionals who support them

**Website:** [www.beachcenter.org](http://www.beachcenter.org)

**Phone:** (785) 864-7600

**Center for Parent Information and Resources** – resources and products related to children with disabilities

**Website:** <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/>

**Division for Early Childhood (DEC)** - promotes policies and advances evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children (0-8) who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities

**Website:** <http://www.dec-sped.org/>

**Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA)** -- help families understand their rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), connect with other families, and find high-quality resources

**Website:** <http://ectacenter.org/families.asp>

**National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** - promotes high-quality early learning for children birth through age 8

**Website:** <http://www.naeyc.org/>

**Phone:** (800) 424-2460

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## National Resources and Experts (continued)

**National Down Syndrome Society** - advocate for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome

**Website:** <http://www.ndss.org/>

**Phone:** (800) 221-4602

**Research and Training Center on Early Childhood Education** – focus on interventions associated with the healthy mental, behavioral, communication, pre-literacy, social-emotional, and interpersonal development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with or at risk for developmental disabilities

**Website:** <http://www.puckett.org/researchtrainingcenter.php>

**Phone:** (800) 824-1182

**Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children (TACSEI)** – creates products and resources to help decision-makers, caregivers, and service providers apply best practices to improve the social-emotional outcomes for young children

**Website:** <http://www.challengingbehavior.org/>

**Phone:** (813) 974-6100

**What Works Clearinghouse** ---review of research on the different *programs, products, practices,* and *policies* in education

**Website:** <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/default.aspx>

**Phone:** (866) 503-6114

**Wrightslaw** -- information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities

**Website:** <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/ei.index.htm>

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## Florida Pilot, Research and Demonstration Projects

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (a pilot study)** - focus on the unique experiences of families who have a young child at risk for or identified with an autism spectrum disorder and their experiences with early intervention

**Website:** <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v15n1/coogle.html>

**Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CEFEL)** - Resource for parents of children with disabilities.

**Website:** <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>

**Early Social Interaction Project** – a demonstration and research project that provides early intervention for toddlers with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families

**Website:** <http://esi.fsu.edu/>

**First Words Project** – a longitudinal research investigation in the Autism Institute in the College of Medicine at Florida State University

**Website:** <http://firstwords.fsu.edu/>

**Phone:** (850) 488-5780

**Florida State University Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy** - focuses on vulnerable infants and toddlers who can be positively affected through nurturing relationships, strong maternal and child health, and quality early childhood care and education.

**Website:** <http://www.cpeip.fsu.edu/>

**Phone:** (850) 922-1300

**KidTalk Tactics Project** – a model demonstration project to develop, describe, and disseminate an early communication intervention model that effectively supports continuous communication development in children ages 12-60 months old.

**Website:** <http://kttp.cci.fsu.edu>

**Projects and research at the University of South Florida** –in the area of Early Childhood Intervention

**Website:** <http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/projects-research/?topicID=3>

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