



Parent Resources



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Birth to Three Early Intervention Program



Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI)

[Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative \(DATI\) - Center for Disabilities Studies \(udel.edu\)](#)

DATI raises awareness of assistive technology (AT) through community events, such as health fairs and exhibits, and offers training to people with disabilities, families and professionals. DATI also operates several programs that help people acquire the tools that support learning and communication.

BlindSight Delaware (formerly the Delaware Association for the Blind)

[BlindSight Delaware \(formerly the Delaware Association for the Blind\) | Family SHADE](#)

The mission of BlindSight Delaware is to support the independence and quality of life for people in Delaware who are blind or visually impaired. BlindSight Delaware is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for blind and visually impaired children and adults in Delaware. Programs include Low Vision Store, peer support, recording services, health/wellness activities and information and assistance. BlindSight Delaware has several funds available for financial emergencies, special adapted equipment and guide dog expenses. Financial assistance is only available to legally blind clients.

Center for Disabilities Studies

[Our Mission - Center for Disabilities Studies \(udel.edu\)](#)

The Center for Disabilities Studies works to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families through education, advocacy, service and research. It promotes empowerment and opportunity, accessibility and inclusiveness, so all may fully participate in – and enrich – their communities.

Center for Parent Information & Resources

[Center for Parent Information and Resources | Your Central Hub for Parent Centers Serving Families of Children With Disabilities \(parentcenterhub.org\)](#)

The Center for Parent Information & Resources (CPIR) is your central “hub” of information and products created for the network of Parent Centers serving families of children with disabilities. All the materials found on the CPIR Hub have been created and archived for Parent Centers around the country to help them provide support and services to the families they serve. The CPIR employs a user-centered process, gathering the perspectives of our experienced audience — Parent Center staff members and other experts — every step of the way, to create products and services that increase Parent Centers’ knowledge and capacity in specific domains.

CHILD, Inc.

[Child, Inc. | Home - Child Inc.](#)

Since 1963, CHILD, Inc. has been helping the children and families of Delaware. CHILD, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization that offers prevention, treatment, emergency shelter, and advocacy services that strengthen families. We serve dependent, neglected and abused children and their parents. We provide programs for those involved in domestic violence situations, especially children.

Children and Families First

[Children & Families First | Delaware | Prevention Intervention Healing \(cffde.org\)](http://cffde.org)

We believe every child is filled with tremendous potential — at Children & Families First, our commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of all children and their families has made our name our promise.

Children with Medical Complexity

[Children with Medical Complexity - Delaware Health and Social Services - State of Delaware](#)

Children with medical complexities are a subset of children and youth with special health care needs because of their extensive health care utilization. For the purpose of this work, a child is considered medically complex if she/he falls into two or more of the following categories:

- Having one or more chronic health condition(s) associated with significant morbidity or mortality
- High risk or vulnerable populations with functional limitations impacting their ability to perform Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
- Having high health care needs or utilization patterns, including requiring multiple (3 or more) subspecialties, therapists, and/or surgeries
- A continuous dependence on technology to overcome functional limitations and maintain a basic quality of life.

Children with Special Health Care Needs

[Children with Special Health Care Needs - Delaware Health and Social Services - State of Delaware](#)

Delaware's Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs works to improve the wellbeing of children with special health needs.

DE Thrives / 2-1-1 Help Me Grow

[Help Me Grow - Delaware Thrives \(dethrives.com\)](http://dethrives.com)

Help Me Grow is a partnership of many organizations throughout the state. They offer many programs, services, and helpful information for parents-to-be and families. Our community includes hospitals, pediatric primary-care practices, early care, and education professionals, families, and grassroots community organizations.

Delaware 2-1-1

[Free, Confidential Hotline | Delaware 211](#)

Delaware 211 connects people in Delaware to essential resources throughout the state. Our service is free, confidential, and available in multiple languages.

Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

[Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council - State of Delaware](#)

The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) is authorized by [Public Law 106-402](#) to address the unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities through system-wide advocacy, planning, and demonstration projects.

Delaware Family Voices

[Delaware Family Voices – Family to Family Health Info Center \(delawarefamilytofamily.org\)](http://delawarefamilytofamily.org)

Delaware Family Voices is a non-profit organization comprised mostly of parents who have shared similar journeys. We are here to help you along the path of your child's own unique journey. We will share what we have learned. We will help identify available options and services. We will guide you in how to receive those services, enroll in programs, insurance, and anything else you may need to support your child.

Delaware Network for Excellence in Autism

[FAMILY SUPPORTS - Delaware Network for Excellence in Autism \(delawareautismnetwork.org\)](http://delawareautismnetwork.org)

Family Navigation: Families can call to seek guidance on issue-specific needs and challenges or just speak to a parent who's been through a similar experience. Family navigators will help answers questions and provide information and resources.

Autism Care Team (ACT) Program: For families in need of more ongoing support, Family Support Providers (FSPs), work on-one-one to provide a number of services. FSPs are parents of children with autism and can help parents coordinate care among providers and systems, establish goals and develop plans for services for their children, and connect parents to education and other resources to become informed advocates.

Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI)

[Division for the Visually Impaired - Delaware Health and Social Services - State of Delaware](#)

The Mission of DVI is to provide educational, vocational, and technical support to empower and foster independence for Delawareans with visual impairments.

Down Syndrome Association of Delaware

[Down Syndrome Association of Delaware \(dsadelaware.org\)](http://dsadelaware.org)

Founded in 1979, the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware is a statewide non-profit support group. We are a supportive resource, advocating for the acceptance and understanding that allows individuals with Down syndrome to achieve the same level of access and opportunity as their peers.

Family Court

[Family Court - Delaware Courts - State of Delaware](#)

The Family Court has extensive jurisdiction over all domestic matters. Information about the most frequently heard matters can be found on the website above. The website provides information on each of the topic areas as well as instruction books and forms to assist in filing with the Court. For complete information on the jurisdiction of the Family Court, review [Jurisdiction](#) at the website above.

Family Court (Understanding the Protection From Abuse Process)

[Protection From Abuse - Family Court - Delaware Courts - State of Delaware](#)

A Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order is an order of Family Court ordering someone to stop abusing another person, and may include other relief, such as ordering the abuser to stay away from the person being abused. Abuse is defined as any threatening or harmful conduct including serious emotional harm.

Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware (EFDE)

[Epilepsy Resources, Certifications & Advocacy \(efde.org\)](http://efde.org)

EFDE is the only organization in the state established to address the non-medical needs of people with epilepsy/seizure disorders and their families. We provide free educational programs and referral services to individuals with epilepsy/seizure disorders and their families, as well as educational programs for the broader community. Programs include but are not limited to:

- Individual support and information
- Epilepsy educational conferences and workshops
- Seizure recognition and management for school personnel
- Take charge of the facts for teens
- Law enforcement training
- Managing students with seizures for school nurses
- Seizure training for health care professionals

Family SHADE

[Family SHADE](#)

What is Family SHADE? Connecting children with special health care needs with community resources.

Family SHADE, the Family Support and Healthcare Alliance Delaware: A community dedicated to supporting families of children with disabilities and chronic medical conditions.

Hearing Loss & Deafness Resources

[Hearing Loss & Deafness Resources – Delaware Family Voices \(delawarefamilytofamily.org\)](http://delawarefamilytofamily.org)

This site contains a list of 10 resources for families.

Hearing Loss Association of Delaware

[Hearing Loss Association of Delaware \(hlade.org\)](http://hlade.org)

The mission of the Hearing Loss Association of Delaware is to open the world of communication to all individuals with hearing loss – adults and children alike – by providing information, education, and advocacy.

Intellectual Disability (Babies & Toddlers)

[Intellectual Disability | Center for Parent Information and Resources \(parentcenterhub.org\)](http://parentcenterhub.org)

Information from the Center for Parent Information & Resources on assistance for babies and toddlers with intellectual disabilities.

Just in Time Parenting

[Welcome | Just in Time Parenting \(udel.edu\)](http://udel.edu)

Just in Time Parenting (JITP) is a non-profit organization bringing high-quality, research-based information to new parents and parents-to-be. JITP distributes age-paced newsletters to subscribers, educating them on their child's development and providing them with helpful tips and tools for their job as parents.

Our vision is to see great children growing up in healthy families. We want to help you make this happen in your family, too. Kids grow up fast and it's hard to keep up. JITP provides ideas for keeping everyone in the family healthy and happy. One of our main services is our newsletter, which offers information and perspective to guide you through your child's development. Our newsletters cover the stages of a child's growth ranging from the first trimester of pregnancy, through your child's fifth year.

Nemours Children's Health

[Nemours Children's Health](http://nemours.org)

Nemours offers specialty care, urgent care, primary care, and urgent care video visits for children.

Parent Information Center of Delaware

[PIC of DelawareHome - PIC of Delaware](http://picdelaware.org)

Parent Information Center of Delaware, (PIC) is a primary source for information, education, and support for all children with disabilities and their families, supporting the areas of health care, special education, and family engagement. It is a statewide, non-profit organization with a mission to improve health and educational outcomes for children and youth by empowering them, their families, and the professionals who serve them. Established in 1983, PIC operates or manages several programs serving children and families, among them the is the Parent Training and Information project administered through the U.S. Department of Education/Office of Special Education Programs.

Parents as Teachers

[Parents as Teachers – Delaware Department of Education](http://parentsasteachers.org)

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a program which provides visits to families in their homes to support pregnant mothers and children from birth through kindergarten. For more than 30 years, PAT has aimed to increase children's school success by:

- Increasing parent knowledge of early childhood development
- Improving parenting practices
- Providing early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- Preventing child abuse and neglect

Resources for Families, Providers, & Others Involved in Caring for Children w/ Medical Complexity

[Resources for Families, Providers, and Others Involved in the Care of Children with Medical Complexity - Delaware Health and Social Services - State of Delaware](#)

The purpose of Delaware's Children with Medical Complexity Advisory Committee (CMCAC) is to strengthen the system of care, increase collaboration across agencies, encourage community involvement, and ultimately ensure that every child with medical complexity has the opportunity to receive the adequate and appropriate

The Arc of Delaware

[The Arc of Delaware – Achieve with us!](#)

The mission of The Arc of Delaware is to promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, actively supporting full inclusion and participation in the community through advocacy & services. The Arc of Delaware is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for and serving Delawareans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. We encompass all ages and more than 100 different diagnoses, including autism, Down Syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, and other developmental disabilities.

United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware, Inc.

[United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware, Inc. – Celebrating over 50 years of serving your communities \(ucpde.org\)](#)

To promote the overall quality of life, independence, and equality of children and adults with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities and their families. To carry out and achieve its mission, UCP of Delaware will:

- Support active community integration, inclusive education, and productive employment of people with disabilities in the mainstream of society
- Promote awareness and understanding of issues and research that impact upon people with disabilities
- Collaborate with other agencies to support the empowerment of people with disabilities
- Advocate for the rights of people with disabilities
- Generate financial and human resources for improved services to people with disabilities.

Very Special Arts Delaware

[Very Special Arts - Delaware \(udel.edu\)](#)

The mission of Very Special Arts - Delaware is to enhance the capabilities, confidence, and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities by providing learning opportunities in dance, theater, creative writing, music, and the visual arts.

Parent Resources

[Parent Resources - Guides to Services - State of Delaware](#)

Hotlines and Crisis Help

[24-Hour Child Abuse or Neglect Hotline](#)

Report child abuse or neglect by calling [1-800-292-9582](tel:1-800-292-9582)

[24-Hour Child Mental Health Crisis Services](#)

For help with a child's/adolescent's mental health or substance use emergency, call [1-800-969-4357](tel:1-800-969-4357).

[Delaware 211](#)

Delaware 2-1-1 provides one central resource for access to the health and human service organizations that offer the support to make a difference.

Whether faced with the panic of a natural disaster or struggling to meet every day basic needs, Delaware residents can rely on 2-1-1 for a direct response and prompt assistance. This free service is confidential and available when you need it.

[Safe Arms for Babies 24-Hour Hotline](#)

Safe Arms for Babies is a law that allows a parent to go to any Delaware hospital emergency department and leave their newborn (14 days old or younger) with any emergency department staff or volunteer. This law provides immunity from criminal prosecution provided the baby is alive, unharmed and brought into a hospital emergency department.

Education

[Find Your School](#)

Use the Delaware Department of Education's school locator tool to find your local school and district.

[Guide to Schools K-12](#)

Delaware offers many great options for education, such as traditional school districts, charter schools, private schools and homeschools. This guide is designed to help families find information on childcare and early learning as well as determine a child's next steps in education, finding neighborhood schools, and meet any transportation need

[Guide to Higher Education](#)

Resources for scholarships, grants, financial aid, and continuing education.

Health and Safety

[Adopt A Child](#)

Adoption is a great way to build a family. People who choose to adopt children from foster care are very special. They have a strong belief that all children deserve a loving family to call their own. There are dozens of children in Delaware that want nothing more than to become part of a forever family.

[Child Nutrition](#)

The Delaware Department of Education Nutrition Programs administers several programs that provide healthy food to children including the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and the Special Milk Program. Each of these programs helps fight hunger and obesity by reimbursing organizations such as schools, childcare centers, after-school programs, and non-profit organizations for providing healthy meals to children.

[Developmental Disabilities Council](#)

The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council is currently seeking public comment on the DRAFT 2022-2026 Strategic Plan that guides the work that our Council will complete in the next five years.

[Emergency Medical Services](#)

SAFE KIDS Delaware Coalition is a non-profit organization established in 1989, comprised of volunteers dedicated to reducing unintentional childhood injury in children from birth to age 14. The Delaware Division of

Public Health serves as the lead agency. An affiliate of SAFE KIDS Worldwide®, we are a state coalition, led by a board of directors, with active chapters in each county.

[Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know](#)

A main focus of Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know is to make information available to the public and promote participation in emergency planning. A variety of information is available.

[Immunization](#)

You can protect your children against disease by having them vaccinated. Vaccination (also called immunization or baby shots) starts at birth. Protect your children by getting them all the recommended vaccinations on time.

[Injury Prevention](#)

Injuries can affect anyone, regardless of age, race, or economic status. More Delawareans die from unintentional injuries such as motor vehicle crashes and falls in the first four decades of life than from any other cause. Injuries have physical, emotional, and financial consequences that impact lives of individuals, their families, their communities, and society. The financial burden of injury-related lifelong disability has extensive and wide-ranging effects. Many injuries and acts of violence are preventable.

[Low-Cost Health Insurance for Children \(CHIP\)](#)

The Delaware Healthy Children Program is a low-cost health insurance program for Delaware's uninsured children. The Delaware Healthy Children Program features the same high-quality coverage you'd get with some of the best private insurance plans.

[Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services](#)

The Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services, also known as DPBHS, provides a statewide range of voluntary mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention services for children and youth.

[Delaware Safe Kids](#)

SAFE KIDS Delaware Coalition is a non-profit organization established in 1989, comprised of volunteers dedicated to reducing unintentional childhood injury in children from birth to age 14. The Delaware Division of Public Health serves as the lead agency. An affiliate of SAFE KIDS Worldwide®, we are a state coalition, led by a board of directors, with active chapters in each county.

[Healthy Child Care America Program](#)

All early childhood experiences matter. Nearly 50% of children under 5 attend out-of-home care. Pediatricians need to be involved in helping promote quality early education and childcare because it is where the children are. The Healthy Child Care resources assist pediatric health providers in collaborating with early education and childcare providers to increase the quality of care, promote early education and improve children's health and well-being.

[Children's Community Alternative Disability Program](#)

This program is operated by the Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance. It provides Medicaid coverage to severely disabled children who do not qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or other Medicaid qualifying programs because of their parents' income and/or resources. Parents wishing to apply for this program for their child should contact the nearest DMMA Long Term Care Medicaid Unit.

[Protection from Abuse Order](#)

A Protection from Abuse Order (PFA) is an order of Family Court ordering someone to stop abusing another person, and may include other relief, such as ordering the abuser to stay away from the person being abused. Abuse is defined as any threatening or harmful conduct including serious emotional harm.

Child Care

[Assistance for Relatives Caring for a Child](#)

The Kinship Care Program provides assistance for relative caregivers during the 180-day transition period when a child first moves into the non-parent caregiver's home (relative caregivers are non-parental relatives, such as grandparents or aunts and uncles, who take on the responsibility of caring for a relative child). The program assists in meeting immediate needs for clothing, shelter, health, safety, and educational supplies.

[Assistance for the Care of Severely Disabled Children](#)

This program is operated by the Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance (DMMA). It provides Medicaid coverage to severely disabled children who do not qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or other Medicaid qualifying programs because of their parents' income and/or resources. Parents wishing to apply for this program for their child should contact the nearest DMMA Long Term Care Medicaid Unit.

[Child Care Subsidy](#)

This service provides support for families with children to enable the caretaker to hold a job, obtain training or meet special needs of the parent or child. Childcare may also be provided in child abuse cases to help protect the child. If you are working, you may have to pay a portion of your childcare expenses. Contact a Division of Social Services office to get more information on the program rules and fees.

[File a Complaint Against a Child Care Facility](#)

The Office of Child Care Licensing investigates complaints about possible violations of licensing rules by childcare facilities. It has no authority to investigate financial matters, nor does it investigate personal disputes.

[Locate a Childcare Provider](#)

Selecting the right childcare provider for your family is a very important decision and there are many things to consider. This site helps you make a more informed choice by showing program information and the number of non-compliances and substantiated complaints for the past five years.

[Kinship Care Program](#)

The Kinship Care Program provides assistance for relative caregivers during the 180-day transition period when a child first moves into the non-parent caregiver's home (relative caregivers are non-parental relatives, such as grandparents or aunts and uncles, who take on the responsibility of caring for a relative child). The program assists in meeting immediate needs for clothing, shelter, health, safety, and educational supplies.

Child Abuse or Neglect

[Volunteer to be a Child Advocate](#)

The National CASA/GAL Association, together with state and local member programs, supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every child who has experienced abuse or neglect can be safe, have a permanent home, and the opportunity to thrive.

[Addressing Child Sexual Abuse](#)

Resource Information for the Community. Compiled by the Consumer Health Librarian, Sussex County, Delaware and the Delaware Division of Libraries.

[Child Advocate Office](#)

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) is a non-judicial state agency charged with safeguarding the welfare of Delaware's children. OCA was created in 1999 in response to numerous child deaths in Delaware resulting from child abuse.

[Child Protection Accountability Commission \(CPAC\)](#)

Delaware's Child Protection Accountability Commission ("CPAC" or "the Commission") was statutorily created in 1997 as part of a comprehensive strategy, entitled the Child Abuse Prevention Act of 1997, to improve Delaware's child protection system following the tragic death of a four year old boy named Bryan Martin. This act made significant changes regarding how Delaware investigates child abuse and neglect and how it fosters a child protection community of cooperation, accountability and multi-disciplinary collaboration.

[Victims' Compensation Assistance Program](#)

The purpose of the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program is to alleviate some of the financial burdens faced by victims, those that are directly related to the specific offense, by providing compensation for certain losses.

[School Employees Must Report Child Abuse](#)

All suspected child abuse and neglect must be reported to the 24-hour Division of Family Services (DFS) Child Abuse and Neglect Report Line or online. You may also call any Law Enforcement Agency or 911, but not in lieu of contacting DFS. You are not required to provide proof. Anyone who makes a good faith report based on reasonable grounds is immune from prosecution.

Divorce

[Divorce / Annulment Overview.](#)

Getting a divorce or an annulment is an important decision. A divorce is the way to legally end your marriage. An annulment is the way to have the Court declare that your marriage never existed. Before you decide to get a divorce or annulment, you may want to meet with a family counselor. A counselor can help you identify problem areas in your marriage and help you decide whether you should get a divorce or annulment. If you do decide to get a divorce or annulment, we recommend that you speak to an attorney.

[Child Support Services](#)

information on the purpose of child support, how and where to apply for services, the types of services offered, enforcement measures, and frequently asked questions.

[Custody/Visitation](#)

Under Delaware law, parents are joint natural custodians of their children. When parents live separate and apart, either or both parents may file a petition in Family Court asking that the court award custody to him/her.

[File for Child Support](#)

Under Delaware law, both parents have a duty to support their child until the child is 18 years of age, or, if the child is still in high school, until the child graduates or turns 19 years of age, whichever comes first.

Youth Rehabilitation

[Juvenile Dispositional Guidelines](#)

The Committee on Dispositional Guidelines for Juveniles ([10 Del. C. § 1008](#)) is responsible for developing guidelines for use in determining dispositions of juvenile offenders.

[Secure Care: Ferris School for Boys](#)

Ferris School is a secure care, ACA-accredited treatment facility providing services for up to 72 court committed males, ages 13 to 18. The average length of stay is six months, followed by a six-week transition program. Youth committed to Ferris are identified as serious and/or chronic repeat offenders, who pose a risk to themselves or others and require intensive rehabilitative treatment.

[Secure Care: Grace/Snowden Cottages](#)

Snowden Cottage is a Level IV staff secured residential treatment program designed to address the needs of adjudicated male adolescents and assist them in making a successful transition to the community.

[Secure Care: Mowlds Cottage](#)

Mowlds Cottage is a staff secured transition program that houses male adjudicated youth up to the age of 18 years old who have completed the Ferris School program.

[Secure Care: New Castle](#)

The New Castle County Detention Center (NCCDC) is a 64 bed lock-secure facility serving pre-adjudicated males and females under the age of 18 years old. The facility is accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA), a nationally recognized organization that sets standards for adult and juvenile correctional facilities.

[Secure Care: Stevenson House](#)

The William Marion Stevenson House Detention Center is a lock-secure facility staffed for 55 pre-adjudicated male and female youth under the age of 18 years old. The facility is accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA), a nationally recognized organization that sets standards for adult and juvenile correctional facilities.

[Youth Rehabilitation Services](#)

The Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services is the lead juvenile justice agency serving youth ordered to our care through the judicial system. We are responsible for assessing the needs of youth and collaborating with their families, school, and support systems to coordinate services aimed at addressing the factors that contributed to delinquency. DYRS offers supervision and services through Civil Citation, Community Services, Detention Services, Residential to Alternatives to Detention, and Secure Care Treatment. The goal of all of our programs is to reduce recidivism and promote positive outcomes.