

Are you concerned about your young child's development and/or behavior?

Learn what to do and who to call.



Step 1: Contact your child's Pediatrician

- Schedule an appointment with your child's Pediatrician to discuss the concern and determine if it may be caused by a medical issue or could be common or "to be expected" at this stage of his/her development. It is recommended that families consider taking written information from others (family/teachers) who have concerns when available.
- If the Pediatrician feels the concern is typical for their age, ask when you should return to re-evaluate if there are continuing concerns.
- *If the Pediatrician does not think the concern is typical at this stage of development, or if you or others have continued concerns, parents should call to schedule a free developmental evaluation through Pennsylvania's Early Intervention System. (See Step 2)*
- Additional information about how children develop and tips to help manage challenging behavior are available at www.papromiseforchildren.org.

Step 2: Schedule a Developmental Evaluation with PA Early Intervention

- If your child is under 3 years old, and a resident of Butler County, a free Developmental Evaluation should be scheduled with Early Intervention by calling the Center for Community Resources (CCR) at 724-431-3748.
- If your child is between 3 and 5 years old, and a resident of Butler County, a free Developmental Screening and/or Evaluation should be scheduled with Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV at 1-800-345-0033.
- Families living outside of Butler County should contact the CONNECT helpline at 1-800-692-7288 for additional information about their county's Early Intervention Offices.



Developmental Evaluation of children from birth - 5 years old:

- Eligibility for Early Intervention (EI) is based on a 25% delay in one or more developmental area as compared to other children of their age: *cognition, communication, fine and gross motor, adaptive behavior or personal-social.*
 - If it is determined that your child has a delay in one or more area, your family will be offered services and/or recommendations to address the concern. The EI team also works with your family and child care/preschool providers to help to implement strategies to support behavior.
- If the EI team feels that your child has a Behavioral Support need, they may refer your child for an Evaluation or Written Order to obtain behavioral supports from a: licensed physician, licensed psychologist, certified registered nurse practitioner, or other licensed professional whose scope of practice includes the diagnosis and treatment of behavioral health disorders and the prescribing of behavioral health services who is within your insurance network and approved to evaluate children of this age. (See Step 3)
- Other supportive family services which do not require a Behavioral Evaluation or prescription may also be recommended and/or pursued by parents on their own. Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) is available through several local organizations and can help families learn new techniques to better manage children's behavior. Additional information can be found at <http://www.pcit.org>.

**Step 3:
Obtaining an
Evaluation or
Written Order for
Behavioral Health
Services**



If your child is in need of a Behavioral Evaluation or Written Order:

Families with Medical Assistance

- Contact CCR at 724-431-3748 to have them help coordinate an appointment with a behavioral health provider.
- Families can also call the Beacon Member Services Line at (877) 688-5971 or visit www.pa.beaconhealthoptions.com for additional provider options and to ensure that you have the most current health resources.
- Once an Evaluation or Written Order has been completed, check with the provider to confirm that they will send Butler County Human Services a copy of the evaluation or written order or if this may be your responsibility.
- If Behavioral Health Services are prescribed, you will receive a phone call from Butler County Human Services to determine your options for implementation of services.

Families with Private Insurance

- Contact your insurance company to make an appointment with a behavioral health provider who participates in your health plan.
- Once an Evaluation or Written Order has been completed, it is your responsibility to get a copy of the Evaluation or Written Order to the provider of your choice to request services.

Please Note:

- ***Evaluations and Written Orders are valid for 1 year from the date written.***
- **Center for Community Resources (CCR) provides information, referrals and service coordination to support individuals and families with a wide variety of human service and behavioral health needs. CCR can be reached by calling (724) 431-3748.**
- **Families can call Butler County Human Service CASSP Coordinator at (724) 285-5114 with questions or concerns about navigating the Behavioral Health system for their child.**
- **If a child's current behavioral concerns may place them at risk of suspension/expulsion from their child care or preschool program, it is recommended that parents/providers also call their local PA Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) to see if any additional supports may be available to help. In Butler County, please call ELRC Region 3 at (724) 285-9431.**