

Licking County Autism Diagnosis Education Project



1 in 68 children

1 in every 68 children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in America. Signs of autism are present in many children by the time they are 18 months old. ASD is a developmental disorder that affects a child's ability to communicate, interact and play with others. It's important for parents to know what to look for and what to do if they suspect that their child has ASD.

What is ADEP?

ADEP, or the Autism Diagnosis Education Project, offers parents access to a local evaluation process for children under the age of 3 suspected of having autism. A team of highly trained professionals can evaluate your child in your own community. ADEP is provided by the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) in conjunction with local pediatrician Dr. William Knobeloch.

What you can do

Contact LCBDD's Early Intervention Program at 740-349-6588.

Early Intervention is a program for families that have a child under the age of 3 who has a developmental delay. If you already participate in Early Intervention, tell your service coordinator or primary service provider about your concerns.

Early signs

The following may indicate your child is at risk for autism spectrum disorder:

- No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by 6 months or after.
- No back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions by 9 months.
- No babbling by 12 months.
- No back-and-forth gestures such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving by 12 months.
- No words by 16 months.
- No meaningful, two-word phrases (not including imitating or repeating) by 24 months.
- Does not make eye contact.
- Any loss of speech, babbling or social skills at any age.

An early diagnosis matters

As a parent, it can be difficult to accept that your child's behavior may show signs of ASD. However early detection and diagnosis means access to earlier treatment and better outcomes.

Children can benefit from early intervention, which can reduce symptoms and increase skills and abilities. Professionals can provide you with information to help you support your child's development.

A diagnosis is important because it can help professionals understand your child's strengths, needs and learning styles. This will allow them to guide you toward the intervention that matches the needs of your child and family. Research shows the earlier intervention begins, the better the outcomes for your child.



www.lcountydd.org

Meet Our Licking County ADEP Team!



Karlie, Occupational Therapist



Diane, Developmental Specialist



Beth, Service Coordinator



Dr. William Knobeloch,
Local Pediatrician



Michelle, Developmental Specialist



Susan, Developmental Specialist

Why choose your local ADEP team?

- The entire process happens in Licking County.
- You don't have to drive a long distance to find the answers and help you are seeking.
- The average wait time for a family is one month.
- Families interact with local service providers and professionals who connect you with resources in your own community.

What to expect

LCBDD's Early Intervention program assigns a service coordinator who will guide parents through the process. The service coordinator will arrange for an evaluation by a team of highly trained professionals. The results of the evaluation will be shared with the parents. If ASD is suspected, an expanded evaluation will be scheduled.

This will include completion of the Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale (ADOS) which is the gold standard in autism diagnosis. The results will be shared with ADEP medical partner Dr. William Knobeloch who completes a medical evaluation and reviews all results with parents. A member of the evaluation team will accompany the family to this visit. The medical partner either diagnoses ASD or rules it out. Intervention options are discussed with the parents.

One parent's perspective...

"We received comprehensive evaluations of my son with great feedback and a plethora of resources in the community.

Through the ADEP testing, my son was able to receive a rapid and non-invasive diagnosis, which promoted quick access to additional resources and funding.

It was important to me that the diagnostic stage of this process be non-traumatic and as non-disruptive to a typical life routine for a 2-year-old. This goal was achieved. The majority of evaluations of my son occurred in our home.

When I met with the physician and received the news that my son had ASD, Michelle (an LCBDD Developmental Specialist) was by my side. I will never forget her support and I will be forever grateful for her involvement.

ADEP allowed for my son to have a personal advocate, who has now become like a family member."

-Kristen, a Pataskala parent



www.lcountydd.org