Creating a Referral Network

Developmental, behavioral, and family support services are best provided through the coordinated efforts of a variety of professionals, agencies, and other resources. Many providers find it valuable to identify and develop collaborative relationships with other local providers to create a community-based referral network.

Locating Community-Based Services to Support Children and Families

The first step toward creating an effective network is to identify a broad-based contact and referral list. The listings in this referral tool have been designed specifically for use with the Maternal and Child Health Library’s online knowledge path, Community Services Locator at:

http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_community.html

Presenting current, credible, and accessible sources, the knowledge path provides immediate access to the Web sites of national organizations that list state or local contacts. We also urge you to:

- Ask families for the names and phone numbers of their primary providers (health care, education, child care, social service).
- Network with colleagues to identify experienced providers. Talk with professionals who provide other services for children and families in your community.
- Meet the Special Services/Special Education Director in your school district. This person can provide specific contacts for the child study team, school psychologist, Child Find and early intervention programs, special schools, and other special services available in your school district.
- Become familiar with the resources available through local faith-based organizations.
- Contact your local social service agency and police outreach department for lists of domestic violence or abuse hotlines and programs.
- Ask for help at your local library or check the county government listings in your phone book for social service agencies, childcare, and education resources.
Where to Seek Help

Your Referral and Contact List

Your referral and contact list might include the following:

**Education/Special Needs**

Special Services/Special Education Director in your local school district
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Early Intervention/Child Find Services
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Health and Wellness**

Local Health Department
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Primary Health Care
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Oral Health Care
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Genetics Services
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Children’s Hospitals
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Home Health Care
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Health Insurance
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Poison Control Centers
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Professional Associations
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Mental Health and Well-Being

Community Mental Health Center

Mental Health Professionals

Family Support/Parenting

Family Support Groups/Parent Organizations

Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Services

Community Violence Prevention and Intervention Services

Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention Services

Faith-Based Support Services

Marriage and Family Therapists

Services for Military Personnel and their Families

Respite Care for Caregivers or Families of Individuals with Disabilities or Other Special Needs
Where to Seek Help

A Bright Futures Referral Tool for Providers

Child Care/Early Childhood Education

Early Head Start ____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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Head Start ________________________________________________
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Local Child Care Resource and Referral Organizations ______________________________________________________________
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Financial Assistance for Child Care ________________________________________________________________
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Other

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