



Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

All in the Family

[Read our quarterly newsletters online.](#)

Message from the Superintendent

APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

join us in
CELEBRATION



awareness

action

acceptance

inclusion

appreciation

April is National Autism Awareness month. On April 2nd, World Autism Awareness day was celebrated where hundreds of thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities around the world were lit blue in recognition of people living with autism.

So what is Autism? Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability that shows itself in early childhood and impacts one's ability to communicate and interact with others. ASD is a "spectrum condition" which affects people differently and to varying degrees. It has been said, *"If you have met one person with Autism, you met one person with Autism."*

In 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued their [ADDM autism prevalence report](#). The CDC indicated that:

- approximately 1 in 59 children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- 1 in 37 boys
- 1 in 151 girls
- Boys are four times more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls.
- Most children were still being diagnosed after age 4, though autism can be reliably diagnosed as early as age 2.
- Autism affects all ethnic and socioeconomic groups.
- Early intervention affords the best opportunity to support healthy development and deliver benefits across the lifespan.

- There is no medical detection for autism.

If you are concerned about your child's development, the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities is here to help.

While there is currently no cure for ASD, research shows that early intervention treatment services can improve a child's development. Early intervention services help children from birth to 3 years old (36 months) learn important skills. Services can include therapy to help the child talk, walk, and interact with others.

Therefore, it is important to talk to your child's doctor as soon as possible if you think your child has ASD or other developmental issues. Even if a child has not been diagnosed with an ASD, he or she may be eligible for early intervention treatment services.

The [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) says that children under the age of 3 years (36 months) who are at risk of having developmental delays may be eligible for services. The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities provides services to the young children in our county in partnership with Stark County Early Intervention (formerly Help Me Grow) and all 17 of our local school districts. The starting point is an assessment through Early Intervention Services. To schedule an assessment, contact Stark County Early Intervention at (330)-616-3322.

To learn more about the early intervention services offered you can also visit us at <https://starkdd.org/services/early-intervention/>.

If your child is three years of age or more, please reach out to your local school district to begin an assessment. Click [here](#) to find your school district's contact information. Stark DD can still work with your child and family by assigning an SSA at age three. An SSA can help connect you with community resources outside of school.

While we know early detection and intervention for children diagnosed with ASD can make a difference, we also know that support may be needed throughout their lifetime. If you, or your loved one is need of life long supports, please call 330-477-5200, or visit our website at <https://starkdd.org/services/ssa/>

Best regards,



Local resources for people with autism



*Autism Awareness & Resources in
Stark County Ohio*

Finance Committee about Governor Mike DeWine's proposed state biennial budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

"We will invest in Early Intervention, modernize our transportation rates to increase access to communities and employment, and work with our stakeholders to develop better ways to serve youth with complex needs," Davis said. "This budget puts us on a pathway to achieve these priorities and initiatives." Read the director's full testimony [here](#).

[Watch Director Davis](#) explain what's in store for the developmental disabilities field.



Looking Ahead



April 8 / 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. / Whipple-Dale Centre
Family Information Series "Disability Support Services at College." For more information or to RSVP, contact [Misty McGirr](#).



April 16 / 12 p.m. / Whipple-Dale Centre
Stark DD Monthly Finance committee meeting; Open to the public.



April 18 / 3 p.m. / Whipple-Dale Centre
Stark DD Monthly Personnel committee meeting; Open to the public.



April 18 / 7 - 9 p.m. / St. George Cultural Center
364 First St. SE, Massillon
Adult Social Night. Must be 18 years of age and over, and follow the [Adult Social Night Guidelines](#) to attend. See a complete [Adult Social Night Calendar](#).



April 23 / 6 p.m. / Whipple-Dale Centre
Stark DD Monthly Board Meeting; Open to the public.



April 27 / 8 a.m. / R. G. Drage Career Technical Center, 2800 Richville Drive SE, Massillon
SST 9 presents the [11th Annual Conference for Families and Educators of Children with Diverse Learning Needs](#). [Registration](#) required.

May 4 / 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. / Whipple-Dale Center
Eastgate and Friends Booster Club Indoor Garage Sale. Proceeds support Stark DD Early Childhood Programs. Contact [Christine Ehmer](#) for information.

**GARAGE
SALE**



CITIZENS WHO CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PRESENTS



May 17 / 8:30 a.m. / Glenmoor Country Club
9th Annual Citizens Who Care for People with
Developmental Disabilities Golf Outing.
Sponsorship and player registration at [2019 Citizens Who
Care for DD Golf Outing](#)



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