

AUTISM

resources



*For families of
children with
autism and
developmental
disabilities.*



Louisiana
PARENT TRAINING & INFORMATION CENTER

.....
Changing Lives. Every Day.

Rev. Dec 1, 2022

Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans and Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center is a statewide agency and an IRS approved 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. All of our programs, services, and resources are free to families of children with disabilities in the state of Louisiana.

Any information provided by Families Helping Families (FHF) and/or Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center (LaPTIC), its staff, and/or its volunteers is intended for informational and educational purposes only. Any information expressed or implied is not intended nor should be construed as legal, medical, or other professional advice. FHF and/or LaPTIC do not render legal, medical, or professional advice or recommendations nor is legal, medical or other professional advice implied by any information given. Any information provided should not replace consultations with qualified legal, educational, medical, or other professionals to meet individual or professional needs. Reference to any program, service, therapy, or treatment option does not imply endorsement by FHF and/or LaPTIC or by its organizational staff members and should not be construed as such.



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AUTISM

ABA (Statewide)

The Art in Me - Applied Behavior Analysis, Counseling.

Contact: Mandy Parten, BCBA

Contact: Melissa Thibodaux, BCBA, M.A., LPC

Address: 1617 Metairie Road

Metairie, LA 70005

Phone: (504) 494-1461 Melissa

Phone: (504) 481-7359 Mandy

E-mail: artinmenola@artinmenola.com

Atlas Autism Center - provides in clinic therapy to children with autism. Our services include the following: assessment, 1:1 direct therapy (ABA), group instruction, and parent training. In addition, ATLAS will begin accepting afternoon clients for our Social Skills Group in the spring of 2019.

Address: 1000 Behrman Hwy.,

Gretna, LA 70056

Phone: (504) 265-0548

Email: atlasautismcenter@gmail.com

Arches ABA Therapy - Individualized ABA services, training, and support for children with autism, ages 2-6, and their families. Individual Therapy, Peer Play, and Group Services.

Address: 19374 North Third Street

Covington, LA 70433

Phone (504) 444-3647

Contact: <https://archesaba.com/contact/>

Autism Spectrum Therapies - AST serves the Greater New Orleans, Northshore and Baton Rouge areas, including parts of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes providing ABA services, social skills, adults and teen services, OT & SLP (services are offered on a limited basis at some locations.)

METAIRIE | ORLEANS -ABA Services & AST

Learning Center - (504) 434-4310

Address: 5700 Citrus Blvd., Suite A1

New Orleans, LA 70123

NORTHSHORE - ABA Services - (985) 317-3598

Address: 500 River Highlands Blvd., Ste. 700,

Covington, LA 70433

SLIDELL - ABA Services - (985) 605-7666

310 Gateway Dr., Ste A, Slidell, LA 70461

Contact: Rebecca Mandal-Blasio, Ph.D.

Phone: (888) 856-6707

Cell: (504) 239-6707

Fax: (504) 265-9339

E-mail:

rebecca.mandal-blasio@autismtherapies.com

The Behavior Guru - We service the greater New Orleans area from ages 0+. Services include ABA therapy, Functional Behavior Assessments, Behavior Intervention Plans, Individual Consultations, Direct Intervention, Social Skills Instruction, Parent/Family Training, Teacher Training, IEP attendance, and Workshops.

Contact: Mindy Rothstein, PhD, BCBA-D

Address: New Orleans, LA 70115

Phone: (504) 345-8222

E-mail: contact@thebehaviorguru.com

The Behavioral Intervention Group - Our learning center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana provides Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy, Social Skills Training, Academic Tutoring and Parent Coaching for children with autism and other developmental disorders.

Address: 7222 Bluebonnet Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Phone: (225) 757-8002

Fax: (225) 757-8822

E-mail: admin@big-br.com

Behavioral Developmental Services - is a therapy center that works with children and young adults with ASD. Developmental delays,

behavioral problems, and individuals that are needing social skill development. BDS uses ABA, counseling, and group therapy as part of their therapy practices. We currently have offices in Monroe, Ruston and Olla, Jena and Winnsboro, La.

Address: 3201 Armand St., Monroe, LA 71201
Address: 1002 South Vienna Ruston, LA 71270
Phone: (318) 600-6640

Behavior Support Solutions - is an ABA agency that provides services in home, school and community settings. Most insurance plans accepted. Some Medicaid plans accepted.

Address: New Orleans Area
Phone: (800) 661-3669 x 802
Email: intakes@behaviorsupportsolutions.com

Behavior Teaching Concepts, LLC

At BTC, we provide individualized ABA programs. Each client's program focuses on socially significant behaviors and skills that will create meaningful changes for the individual and family. We strive to prepare our clients to become contributing and participating members of the community. Clinic Program ages 2-6 and Natural Environment Sessions ages 2-21.

Address: 1024 N. Atlanta St.,
Metairie, LA 70003
Phone: (504) 517-4282
Email: info@behaviorteach.com

Brennan Behavior Group - Brennan Behavior Group offers a comfortable and friendly atmosphere, where individuals and families can find support for a wide range of behavioral, psychological, emotional, and educational challenges.

Our multi-disciplinary team of psychologists, social workers, licensed counselors, and certified teachers offer a full-range of psychological, educational, and behavioral

services.

Whether through consultation, comprehensive diagnostic evaluations, or counseling/therapy, our team will guide you from navigating challenges to finding the most appropriate and effective courses of action.

Testing and evaluation, therapy, ABA therapy school-based and clinic-based, teletherapy and online services, academic support, and more.

MAIN OFFICE

Address: 433 Metairie Rd., Suite 615
Metairie, LA 70005

ABA CLINIC

Address: 7039 Canal Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124

THE BALANCE COLLECTIVE

Address: 2712 Athania Parkway
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: (504) 833-6730
Email: frontdesk@brennanbehavior.com

Butterfly Effects, LLC - Our team provides therapy mostly to children 21 years of age and younger, however, each referral is evaluated individually to determine our ability to help. Team members with collective expertise in the areas of ABA, psychology, and other related health services guide program development and treatment planning, while providing oversight to a team of skilled Behavior Technicians. Services are offered in the Greater New Orleans area and Baton Rouge. Address: 4201 N I-10 Service Road West, Metairie, LA 70006
Client Services: (888) 880-9270
E-mail: clientservices@butterflyeffects.com

Care Tec Pediatric Center - ABA provider. At Care Tec, we use a multidisciplinary approach to improve the lives of children diagnosed with

diverse mental health issues, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and/or other developmental disabilities. Although we serve children with multiple needs, our main focus is to provide services for children on the spectrum.

Address: 2840 Military Highway
Pineville, LA 71360

Phone: (318) 704-5304

Alternate Number: (337) 301-1029

Fax: (318) 704-5821

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) - The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) is one of the world's largest organizations using Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in the treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

Email: info@centerforautism.com

- **BATON ROUGE EAST**
Address: 11606 Southfork Ave. Suite 300 Baton Rouge, LA 70816
Phone: (225) 292-5981
- **BATON ROUGE WEST**
Address: 7932 Summa Ave., Suite B-2, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Phone: (225) 349-7171
- **DENHAM SPRINGS**
Address: 230 Veterans Blvd., Denham Springs, LA 70726
Phone: (225) 349-7960
- **HAMMOND**
Address: 1250 SW Railroad Ave #130, Hammond, LA 70403
Phone: (985) 500-3240
- **LAFAYETTE**
Address: 1003 S Hugh Wallis Rd, Suite B-2, Lafayette, LA, 70508
Phone: (337) 205-4444
- **YOUNGSVILLE**
Address: 107 Centre Sarcelle Blvd #703, Youngsville, LA 70592
Phone: (337) 857-3674
- **MANDEVILLE**

Address: 1325 W Causeway Approach
Mandeville, LA 70471

Phone: (985) 272-1824

- **NEW ORLEANS - UPTOWN**
Address: 733 Dante St.
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: (504) 517-1711
- **NEW ORLEANS - WEST BANK**
Address: 3712 MacArthur Blvd #100
New Orleans, LA 70114
Phone: (504) 882-8105
- **PRAIRIEVILLE**
Address: 17505 Old Jefferson Highway,
Prairieville, LA 70769
Phone: (985) 500-3130
- **GONZALES**
Address: 1028 E Worthey St,
Gonzales, LA 70737
Phone: (504) 399-9851
- **SHREVEPORT**
Address: 7607 Fern Ave #403
Shreveport, LA 71105
Phone: (?)

The Chartwell Center - Chartwell Consortium offers ABA services for children 3-7 and to individuals of all ages after school. Chartwell has an alternative education setting, which integrates ABA practice and collaborates with other professionals for additional recommendations. The education program focuses on appropriate academic targets, increased independence and skills that would help students succeed in a typical school. Chartwell's PATH program works with adults on vocational skills.

Address: 1225 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: (504) 899-2478
Fax: (504) 899-2416

ChatterNOLA - ChatterNola is a boutique private practice specializing in early intervention services in Speech-Language

Pathology and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). We focus on delivering high-quality, evidence-based, individualized therapy that will meet the unique needs of each client we serve from birth through 8 years.

Address: LaPlace, LA

Phone: (504) 250-6422

[Children's Autism Center](#) - The Autism Center at Children's Hospital provides comprehensive, evidence-based assessment and treatment for children with the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Although clinical care is the primary mission of The Autism Center at Children's Hospital, the center also serves as a training facility for providers. It engages in innovative research endeavors to promote understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder and its impact on families. If you have any questions at all on the diagnosis or are wondering what treatments for ASD might look like, please visit The Autism Center or give us a call. Our dedicated team is here for the families in Louisiana and will help you get the answers you need for your child or adolescent.

Services Provided at The Autism Center

We provide many different services to help the children and adolescents in New Orleans and beyond once they have been diagnosed with ASD because there are no two cases the same. We understand this is a life-altering diagnosis. We have prepared our staff to help in any way necessary and provide the family with all the information needed while at home in between visits to our Center. Services we offer include:

Parent/Caregiver Group Workshops

Primarily focus on using Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to improve behavior and teach life skills.

- One-time workshops on different topics that rotate and are offered weekly

- Topics include: Learning about ASD, Behavior management, Toilet Training, Teaching Talking, Feeding Challenges, Sleep Problems, Anxiety
- Parents and caregivers of children with an ASD diagnosis or who are waiting for an evaluation can register to attend

Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluations

For children and adolescents 18 months to 21 years of age

- Provided by licensed Psychologists and postdoctoral fellows under supervision
- Provider Referral Guide

Social Skills Group

- For children four years and older who are verbal and could benefit from group treatment
- Designed to target crucial social interaction skills
- Groups meet once per week for 8-14 weeks (dependent on the child's age and group)
- Caregivers of participating children meet concurrently to learn ways to support children with skills.
- Groups occur on a rotating basis
- Documentation of ASD diagnosis required
- Advanced registration is required/Insurance accepted

Short-Term, Focused Family Consultation

- For parents and caregivers to learn how to support and encourage their child's development using Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) methods in an outpatient therapy format
- Sessions occur once per week for 8 to 12 weeks
- A licensed Psychologist or Postdoctoral Fellow works with the caregiver to determine the focus of treatment,

makes recommendations for changes week to week, and monitors progress with the caregiver

- Consultation may focus on a variety of topics including teaching talking and play skills, managing challenging behavior, working on essential life skills (e.g., toileting, feeding), and decreasing anxiety
- Documentation of ASD diagnosis required
- Advanced registration is required/Insurance accepted

Address: 210 State Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: (504) 896-7272

Crane Rehab Center - Offering a comprehensive early intervention program for children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. The program will include Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Applied Behavior Analysis therapy (ABA) within an interdisciplinary model. This program will provide children with ASD the opportunity to receive quality, evidence-based, treatment at one location.

Adult Facility

Address: 101 River Road, Ste.112
Jefferson, LA 70121
Phone: (504) 828-7696

Pediatric Facility

Address: 8300 Earhart Blvd. Suite 100
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: (504) 866-6990
Contact: Katie Barlow, BCBA
Email: info@cranerehab.com

The Emerge Center - is a non-profit center whose mission is to empower children and adults to reach their greatest potential, and to effectively communicate and interact. Services include individual and group speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychology/behavioral

services, and audiology. Autism program combines one-on-one ABA therapy (clinic-based and home-based) with group speech-language preschool classes, and other therapies as needed.

Address: 7784 Innovation Park Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70820
Phone: (225) 343-4232

GRACE Behavioral Interventions - Located in River Ridge and provide home, school, and clinic based services. We are currently in network with Cigna, Louisiana Health Care Connections, and Healthy Blue. Grace Behavioral Interventions utilizes the science of Applied Behavioral Analysis to provide individualized instruction to assist our clients in achieving goals, and improve socially significant behaviors.
Phone: (985) 859-1312

Greater New Orleans Resource Center on Developmental Disabilities - Anyone receiving services through GNORCDD must have been deemed eligible by the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) i.e.: MHSD and JPHSA/CSPDD. Psychologist, Dr. Nicole Lasserre provides ABA therapy on site, at home, and in school.
Contact: Denise Ben
Jefferson & Orleans Parishes
Address: 234 F. Edward Hebert Blvd.
Belle Chasse, LA 70037
Phone: (225) 567-1254 Ext.300
Cell: (504) 810-2012

Gulf South Autism Center - Pre-School Program, Group Speech Therapy, Individual ABA for School-Age Children, Individual Occupational Therapy, Individual Speech Therapy.
Contact: Brian Esteve, LBA, Clinical Director
Address: 7252 Lakeshore Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70124

Phone: (504) 323-3450

Fax: (504) 323-3455

[Live Oak Children's Center](#) - Behavioral Psychology Services to children of ALL needs. Services include Psychology, ABA, Feeding Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy Art Therapy, and Parent and Professional Training.

Address: 56 Louis Prima Dr., Suite A
Covington, LA 70433

Phone: (985) 327-7256

Fax: (985) 327-7253

E-mail: info@liveoakchildrens.net

[Louisiana Autism Center](#) - Each child is an individual and deserves services that are designed specifically for them. Based upon your child's specific strengths and unique characteristics, we draw from extensive research on Autism Spectrum Disorders, Applied Behavior Analysis, Learning Theory, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to develop an individualized treatment package.

Address: 2036 Jackson St.

Alexandria, LA 71301

Phone: (318) 641-3083, (318) 641-0444

Fax: (318) 641-6112

[McNeese Autism Program](#) - The McNeese Autism Program provides comprehensive treatment services for children with autism spectrum disorders. Our services include intensive early interventions, problematic behavior clinics, social skills groups, language training, pediatric feeding problem interventions, and family training. Our experienced professional staff is comprised of Board Certified Behavior Analysts who are committed to the highest standards of evidence-based practice for your child's specific needs and work closely with you to design the very best treatment for your child.
Address: 4205 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA

Phone: (337) 475-5000 or (800) 622-3352

[Merakey Shelley Hendrix Autism Center](#) - Louisiana Autism Centers: Merakey joined the Capital Region by bringing its continuum of services for individuals with autism to the community. Applied behavioral methods are embedded within all Merakey Autism programs to foster basic skills and maximize functional communication. Our comprehensive approach and highly qualified staff are trained to successfully support each child's area of need and increase their opportunities for success. With a rich history of providing autism services, Merakey utilizes Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) as part of a multi-disciplinary team to oversee and develop programs specifically targeted to meet the needs of the individuals we serve.

Services include:

- School services
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Ancillary Therapy Services including Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy
- Gateway Transition Services - [Merakey Cheatham Transition House](#)

Address: 9150 Bereford Dr.

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Phone: (225) 960-7689

HAMMOND

Address: 14088 W Club Deluxe Rd.

Hammond, LA 70403

Phone: (985) 542-0077

Acceptable forms of payment include Medicaid, Commercial Insurance, and self-pay.

[Mercy Family Center Diagnostic Clinic at Cypress Academy](#) - Offering a variety of services for children identified as "at-risk" including assessment of behavior, expressive and receptive language, speech, personal independence (problem-solving and daily living skills), play and cognitive skills with a

diagnostic team comprised of a psychologist and speech-language pathologist. 1:1 and group Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy services in a clinical setting both within a student's regular school day and within Cypress' school building supervised by a BCBA-Certified Child Psychologist with the potential for an After-School Intervention Program at Cypress to grow.

Contact: Corrina Spedale

Address: Touro Synagogue, 4238 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115

Phone: (504) 383-3337

Email: cspedale@cypressacademy.org

Ochsner - Michael R. Boh Center for Child Development

- The Michael R. Boh Center for Child Development is dedicated to improving the lives of children and adolescents with developmental disorders through comprehensive interdisciplinary team evaluations, integrated treatment protocols, high quality evidence-based patient care, direction of special education services, and professional education and research.

Address: 1319 Jefferson Hwy.

New Orleans, LA 70121

Phone: (504) 842-3900.

Erin Perry, BCBA - Provides ABA services to families with children with autism and other related developmental disabilities.

Address: New Orleans, LA

Cell: (225) 266-7214

E-mail: danceusm@yahoo.com

SOAR Autism Center - We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization offering applied behavior analysis therapy (ABA), speech therapy, social skills, life skills, independent living skills, educational advocacy, support network meetings, lending library, resources, workshops and trainings, as well as community events, adult social events and

support. We accept most insurances including Medicaid for ABA.

Contact: Sherri Houin, Executive Director/CEO

Address: 21 Industrial Pkwy., Bldg. A, Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Phone: (985) 370-2300

Fax: (844) 205-7627

E-mail: Shouin@soarwithautism.org

ST. BERNARD OFFICE

Address: 317 W. Genie Street

Chalmette, LA 70043

Phone: (504) 371-5565

Spears Learning Center - Services provided are one-on-one ABA Therapy Speech Therapy and Parent Training.

Contact: Kelly Spears MS, CCC-SLP/BCBA

Address: 2612 Metairie Rd. Metairie, LA 70001

Phone: (504) 309-5679

Northshore Clinic Phone: (985) 871-0689

E-mail: spearslearningcenter@gmail.com

St. Nicholas Center - St. Nicholas Center offers a wide range of services including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Skills training, and diagnostic testing. Services are provided to children with autism, developmental delays, and neurological disorders in a fun loving, and educational environment.

Address: 2519 Ryan St., Lake Charles, LA 70601

Phone: (337) 491-0800

Fax: (337) 491-0508

Email: info@stnickcenter.org

Stella Learning Center - is the first Autism and related disorders learning center in the Tri-Parish area: Terrebonne, Lafourche, and St. Mary. Related disorders include Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, Downs Syndrome, learning disabilities, and cognitive disabilities.

SLC offers teaching behavior systematically in a highly structured environment utilizing intensive interventions based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

Address: 310 South Hollywood Rd.

Houma, LA 70360

Phone: (985) 868-2671

The Touchstone Center - The Touchstone

Center is a private facility dedicated to providing the state of the science Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services to individuals, families & schools.

Address: 1018 Verret Street, Houma, LA 70360

Address: 311 Jackson Street

Thibodaux, LA 70301

Phone: (985) 492-1941

Fax: (985) 492-1943

Email: thetouchstonecenter@gmail.com

Therapeutic Learning Center

Address: 3329 Metairie Rd, Metairie, LA 70001

Phone: (504) 565-7300

TLC is an innovative pediatric Occupational, Speech, and Physical Therapy practice dedicated to improving the well-being of children within the greater New Orleans area.

TLC supports children to enhance their learning and development from infancy through young adulthood. Our team's 30+ years of professional practice, in addition to raising our own children, has given us the belief that a change in the way therapy services have been offered is imperative.

Therefore, our goal is to provide a holistic and family-centered therapy for all of our clients.

We value a team approach; and therefore, the relationship with our client's education team and parents are just as important as our relationship with your child to ensure their success.

We provide therapy services at our outpatient clinic, as well as **ABA centers**, daycare centers,

preschools, and schools across the greater New Orleans area including private and charter schools. Providing therapy in a child's educational setting allows real-time observation, collaboration with your child's education team to ensure carryover of skills, and decreasing disruption of your family's schedule to transport your child to therapy.

*** We accept Blue Cross Blue Shield, United Healthcare, Aetna, and Coventry health insurances. *** At this time we do not accept Medicaid insurance.

West Behavioral - is a private intervention and consulting practice that provides individualized behavioral interventions and services. Our services are broad and reach multiple populations of individuals. At West Behavioral, we use applied behavior analysis (ABA) to improve socially significant behavior, reduce socially significant problem behaviors and ensure that each individual reaches their full potential.

Contact: Lindy West, BCBA

Address: 611 State Street, Jennings, LA 70546

Phone: (337) 246-7525

E-mail: lindy@westbehavioral.com

Within Reach - Center for Autism - provides Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services to individuals diagnosed with Autism or other developmental disabilities.

Contact: Emily Bellaci, LBA, BCBA

Address: 1515 Demosthenes St.

Metairie, LA 70005

Phone: (504) 885-4327

E-mail: Emily@WithinReachNOLA.com

EVALUATIONS

Children's Autism Center - The Autism Center at Children's Hospital provides comprehensive, evidence-based assessment and treatment for children with the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Although

clinical care is the primary mission of The Autism Center at Children's Hospital, the center also serves as a training facility for providers. It engages in innovative research endeavors to promote understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder and its impact on families. If you have any questions at all on the diagnosis or are wondering what treatments for ASD might look like, please visit The Autism Center or give us a call. Our dedicated team is here for the families in Louisiana and will help you get the answers you need for your child or adolescent.

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Address: 210 State Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: (504) 896-7272

Children's Hospital Behavioral Health Center

Children's Hospital New Orleans Behavioral Health Center understands the importance of treating the whole child. Our behavioral care specialists currently offer a range of services to improve emotional and mental well-being, including inpatient and outpatient support. Expert behavioral care is provided by our highly skilled professionals who are dedicated to improving the lives of our children and adolescent patients and their families.

Address: 210 State Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: (504) 896-7200

Brennan Behavior Group - Brennan Behavior Group offers a comfortable and friendly atmosphere, where individuals and families can find support for a wide range of behavioral, psychological, emotional, and educational challenges.

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MAIN OFFICE

Address: 433 Metairie Rd., Suite 615
Metairie, LA 70005

ABA CLINIC

Address: 7039 Canal Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124

THE BALANCE COLLECTIVE

Address: 2712 Athania Parkway
Metairie, LA 70002

Phone: (504) 833-6730

Email: frontdesk@brennanbehavior.com

Dr. Terry Johnson

Address: 3350 Ridgelake Dr, Suite 272
Metairie, LA 70002.

Phone: (504) 874-3190

Email: drterryphd@bellsouth.net

Does autism evaluations; private insurance only. Dr. Johnson is a licensed psychologist with over 20 years of experience working with children, adolescents, and their families. She offers help for children with diagnoses to determine a course of treatment.

Dr. Laurie Olson

Address: 3350 Ridgelake Dr, Suite 274
Metairie 70002

Phone: (504) 400-9218

Dr. Laurie Olson has over 20 years of experience with children with autism & other developmental disabilities. She is often called upon to assist with behavioral challenges & works closely with the child's parents and teachers. Dr. Olson was schooled in behaviorism & has recent, intensive training from the TEACCH Autism Program at UNC.

Dr. Patricia Blackwell

Pelts, Kirkhart, and Associates, LLC.

Address: 1539 Jackson Ave, NOLA 70130

Phone: (504) 581-3933

Does autism evaluations but possibly does not take insurance, only out-of-pocket.

Live Oak Behavioral Psychology

Address: 56 Louis Prima Drive, Suite A,
Covington, LA 70433

Phone: (504) 450-7561

Brand new clinic based on Northshore;
possibly might do autism evaluations using
private evaluation – ADHD, Gifted evaluations,
learning disabilities, and autism; also does
home-based ABA services

Behavioral Health and Human Development Center

Address: 4517 Lorino St, Metairie, LA 70006

Phone: (504) 454-3015

Email: bhhdc01@yahoo.com

The Behavioral Health & Human Development
Center is a developmental health and wellness
clinic operated by Dr. Carlos Reinoso, a
developmental psychologist. The center
specializes in the assessment and treatment
of developmental disorders including Autism,
Asperger's Disorder, DHD, Dyslexia, and
Learning Disabilities.

Dr. Kristin Callahan

Address: 137 N. Clark Street, NOLA 70119

Phone: (504) 301-8669

Email: Dr.kristincallahan@gmail.com

Dr. Callahan is a licensed psychologist who
provides comprehensive diagnostic
assessments for children suspected of having
an autism spectrum disorder. She runs social
skills groups, provides individual and family
treatment, consults with families and schools
regarding challenging behaviors related to
autism spectrum disorders, and conducts
trainings for parents, teachers, and
professionals regarding early identification,
diagnosis, and intervention for children with
autism.

Mercy Family Center

Address: 110 Veterans Blvd., Suite 425,
Metairie, LA 70005

Phone: (504) 838-8283 (Metairie)

(985) 727-7993 (North Shore)

Counseling, group therapy, educational,
guidance services, testing, and assessments.
Cognitive assessments, gifted and school
entrance examinations, medication
management, psychopharmacology,

treatment of attention deficit, diagnosis and
treatment for hyperactivity disorder (ADHD),
anxiety management, and chronic illness/pain
management, coping with affective mood
disorders, counseling for trauma.

LSU Health New Orleans

School of Allied Health - Human Development
Center

Autism Spectrum Disorder Interdisciplinary
Diagnostic Clinic

[Schedule an appointment](#)

Tulane Doctors - Center for Autism & Related Disorders (TCARD)

Lisa D. Settles, PsyD

Kathryn Wampold, LMSW

Margaret Hauck, PhD

Address: 131 S. Robertson St., 14th Floor A,
New Orleans, LA 70112

Phone: (504) 988-3533 for appointments

Fax: (504) 988-0496

Email: autism@tulane.edu

The Tulane Center for Autism and Related
Disorders (TCARD) was developed as a
multidisciplinary team specializing in the
identification and management of Autism and
other Developmental Disorders.

Ochsner - Michael R. Boh Center for Child Development

Address: 1319 Jefferson Hwy.

New Orleans, LA 70121

Phone: (504) 842-3900.

The Michael R. Boh Center for Child

Development is dedicated to improving the

lives of children and adolescents with developmental disorders through comprehensive interdisciplinary team evaluations, integrated treatment protocols, high quality evidence-based patient care, direction of special education services, and professional education and research.

Rebecca Graham, Ph.D.

Louisiana Licensed Psychologist #1436
Address: 8558 Highway 23 Unit 2
Belle Chasse, LA 70037
Phone: (985)778-3654
Email: dr.rebeccagraham@gmail.com

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES

To support all families in accessing high quality childcare, the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides financial assistance to low-income families while they are working or attending school.

CCAP Household Eligibility

Address: P.O. Box 260037
Baton Rouge, LA 70826
Phone: (877) 453-2721
Fax: (225) 376-6060, (225) 342-3906
Email: LDEccap@la.gov

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES 0-3

EarlySteps

EarlySteps provides services to families with

infants and toddlers aged birth to three years (36 months) who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay, or who have developmental delays.

EarlySteps System Point of Entry (SPOE) Referrals

Region 10 - Parish: Jefferson

Southeast Louisiana Area Health Education Center
Address: 1321 26th St. Kenner, LA 70026
Phone: (504) 496-0165
Toll Free: (866) 296-0718
Email: brian.jakes2@selahec.org

Region 1 - Parish: Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines

Easter Seals of Louisiana
Address: 1010 Common Suite 2440, New Orleans, LA 70112
Phone: (504) 595-3408
Toll Free: (877) 595-3408
Email: hbelle@laeasterseals.com

Region 2 - Parish: East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, Iberville, Ascension

Southeast Louisiana Area Health Education Center
Address: 4324 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd, St. C-155, Baton Rouge, LA 70816
Phone: (225) 925-2426
Toll Free: (866) 925-2426
Email: brian.jakes2@selahec.org

Region 3 - Parish: Assumption, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary

Southeast Louisiana Area Health Education Center
Address: 602 Parish Road
Thibodaux, LA 70301
Phone: (985) 447-6550

Toll Free: (866) 891-9044

Email: brian.jakes2@selahec.org

Region 4 - Parish: Lafayette, Iberia, St. Martin,

Vermillion, St. Landry, Evangeline, Acadia

First Steps Referral and Consulting LLC

Address: 138 East Main Street

New Iberia, LA 70560

Phone: (337) 359-8748

Toll Free: (866) 494-8900

E-mail: babyfsrc2@bellsouth.net

Region 5 - Parish: Beauregard, Jefferson Davis,

Allen, Cameron, Calcasieu

First Steps Referral and Consulting LLC

Address: 138 East Main Street

New Iberia, LA 70560

Phone: (337) 359-8748

Toll Free: (866) 494-8900

E-mail: babyfsrc2@bellsouth.net

Region 6 - Parish: Vernon, Rapides, Winn, Grant,

LaSalle, Catahoula, Concordia, Avoyelles

Families Helping Families at the Crossroads of Louisiana

Address: 2840 Military Hwy.

Pineville, LA 71360

Phone: (318) 704-1038

Toll Free: (855) 449-0900

E-mail: kim.spoe@gmail.com

Region 7 - Parish: Caddo, Bossier, Webster,

Claiborne, Bienville, Natchitoches, Sabine,

DeSoto, Red River

Families Helping Families at the Crossroads of Louisiana

Address: 2620 Centenary Blvd. Bldg. 2 Suite

249, Shreveport, LA 71104

Phone: (318) 226-8038

Toll Free: (866) 676-1695

E-mail: kim.spoe@gmail.com

Region 8 - Parish: Ouachita, Union, Jackson,

Lincoln, Caldwell, Morehouse, West Carroll, East

Carroll, Richland, Franklin, Tensas, Madison

Easter Seals of Louisiana

Address: 1863 Avenue of America Monroe, LA 71201

Phone: (318) 322-4788

Toll Free: (877) 322-4788

Email: pnewton@laeasterseals.com

Region 9 - Parish: St. Tammany, Livingston, St.

Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington

Southeast Louisiana Area Health Education Center

Address: 1302 J.W. Davis Drive

Hammond, LA 70403

Phone: (985) 429 - 1252

Toll Free: (866) 640-0238

Email: brian.jakes2@selahec.org

Home and Community-Based Services – Human Service District/Authority

Flexible Family Fund- OCDD provides monthly stipends to families of eligible children with severe or profound developmental disabilities from birth to age 18 to help their families meet extraordinary costs. These subsidies are offered on a first-come, first served basis. To submit an application, contact a human services district or authority.

Individual and Family Support - services provide assistance not available from any other resource that will allow people with developmental disabilities to live in their own homes or with their families in their own community. These services include respite care, personal assistance services, specialized clothing, dental and medical services, equipment and supplies, communication services, crisis intervention, specialized utility costs, specialized nutrition, and family education. Services are provided through contractual agreements by private provider

agencies or through individualized agreements with individuals and families who obtain their own service providers.

Medicaid home and community-based waiver programs - allow people greater flexibility to choose where they want to live and to use services and supports that best suit their needs. Services provided must represent a least-restrictive treatment alternative. Each home and community-based waiver has specific service packages and eligibility requirements. Waiver opportunities are dependent upon funding, and are also offered based on the individual's need and priority level from their Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN) through the Request for Services Registry.

Tiered Waiver System - OCDD's four developmental disability home and community-based waivers, New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Residential Options Waiver (ROW), Supports Waiver, and Children's Choice Waiver have now been operationalized to a tiered waiver system of service delivery, which will allow for individuals to be supported in the most appropriate waiver.

Human Services Districts/Authorities

Click the name of a Human Services District/Authority for information that is more detailed.

[Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority \(JPHSA\)](#)

Address: 1500 River Oaks Rd West
Jefferson, LA 70123
Phone: (504) 838-5257
INTAKE (East Bank) Lee Taylor (504) 838-5429
INTAKE (West Bank) Jeffery Watkins
(504) 371-0214 Parishes Served: *Jefferson*

[Metropolitan Human Services District \(MHSD\)](#)

Address: 3100 General DeGaulle Drive
New Orleans, LA 70114
Phone: (504) 568-3130
Parishes Served: *Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard*

[Acadiana Area Human Services District \(AAHSD\)](#)

Address: 302 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506
Phone: (337) 262-5610
Parishes Served: *Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermilion*

[Capital Area Human Services District \(CAHSD\)](#)

Address: 4615 Government Street, Building 2,
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Phone: (225) 925-1910
Toll Free: (866) 628-2133
Parishes Served: *Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana*

[Central Louisiana Human Services District \(CLHSD\)](#)

Address: 429 Murray Street, Suite B
Alexandria, LA 71301
Phone: (318) 484-2347
Parishes Served: *Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon, Winn*

[Florida Parishes Human Services Authority \(FPHSA\)](#)

Address: 835 Pride Drive, Suite B
Hammond, LA 70401
Phone: (985) 543-4730
Parishes Served: *Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington*

[Imperial Calcasieu Human Services District \(IMCAL\)](#)

Address: One Lakeshore Drive, Suite 2000,
Lake Charles, LA 70607
Phone: (337) 475-3100

Parishes Served: *Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis*

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority (NEDHSA)

Address: 2513 Ferrand Street
Monroe, LA 71201

Phone: (318) 362-3396

Parishes Served: *Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll*

Northwest Louisiana Human Services District (NLHSD)

Address: 3018 Old Minden Road, Suite 1211,
Bossier City, LA 71112

Phone: (318) 741-7455

Parishes Served: *Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster*

South Central Human Services Authority (SCLHSA)

Address: 5593 Highway 31 Houma, LA 70360

Phone: (985) 876-8805

Parishes Served: *Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, Terrebonne*

MEDICAID

Louisiana Department of Health – MEDICAID

Medicaid provides medical benefits to low-income individuals and families. Although the federal government establishes the general rules for Medicaid, specific requirements are established by each state. In Louisiana, over a million residents receive health care coverage through Medicaid, most of whom are children under 19. The Louisiana Medicaid Program operates within the Louisiana Department of Health.

Apply now or renew coverage for any Medicaid program by visiting the [Louisiana Medicaid](#)

[Online Application \(OLA\)](#). Once you submit the online application, it is sent immediately to the Medicaid office for processing, and there is no delay for mailing or faxing a paper form. Phone: (888) 342-6207

Act 421 TEFRA

Act 421 created what is known as a TEFRA option in Medicaid. TEFRA refers to the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, which is a United States federal law that can help families with children younger than 19 years old who have a disability receive care in their homes rather than an institution. TEFRA programs are sometimes referred to as the Katie Beckett program or the Katie Beckett waiver in other states. In Louisiana, the program is Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option (Act 421-CMO).

In order to be eligible for the Act 421-CMO option, a child must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Be a Louisiana resident.
- Be a United States citizen or qualified non-citizen.
- Under the age of 19 (not to exceed the age of 18).
- Has a disability that is recognized under the definition of disability utilized in the Supplemental Security Income program of the Social Security Administration, regardless of whether the child is eligible to receive benefits under that program.
- Has or has applied for a Social Security Number.
- Excluding the assets (resources) of parents, the child does not have total assets (resources) exceeding \$2,000 in value.
- Excluding the income of parents, the child's income is less than three (3)

times the Federal Benefit Rate (FBR), referred to as the individual Special Income Limit (SIL).

- The child meets an institutional level of care provided in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or intermediate care facility (ICF).
- Care provided safely at home for less than the cost of institutional care.

Steps to Enrolling in Act 421-CMO

There are four (4) general steps to enrolling in the Act 421-CMO program. In order to begin the enrollment process, complete a Medicaid application and submit verification documents. Coverage for Act 421-CMO cannot begin prior to January 1, 2022, which is the date the program, went into effect.

Step 1. Completing a Medicaid Application

There are four (4) ways to apply for Medicaid – online, by mail, in person or by phone. Choose the method that works best for you.

1. Apply [online](#).
2. To apply by phone, call 1-888-342-6207.
3. To apply in person, locate the nearest application center [here](#) or Medicaid Regional office [here](#).
4. If applying by mail, [download](#) Medicaid application. Mail completed application to:

Medicaid Application Office
6069 I-49 Service Rd, Suite B
Opelousas, LA 70570

When applying for Medicaid, the disability question (as shown in question 10 below), needs to be answered ‘yes’ to be routed for Act 421-CMO processing:

Applicants determined ineligible for other Medicaid or CHIP programs that meets all other criteria for Act 421-CMO continues to Step 2 of the enrollment process

9. Do you need health coverage?
(Even if you have insurance, there might be a program with better coverage or lower costs.)
 YES. If yes, answer all the questions below. NO. If no, SKIP to the income questions on page 3.

10. Do you have a physical, mental, or emotional health condition that causes limitations in activities (like bathing, dressing, daily chores, etc.)?
 Yes No If yes, you'll need to complete and include Appendix D.

11. Do you live in a medical facility or nursing home? Yes No If yes, you'll need to complete and include Appendix D.

12. Do you want help paying for medical bills (paid or unpaid) for medical care received in the past 3 months? Yes No

13. Do you live with at least one child under the age of 19, and are you the main person taking care of this child? Yes No

14. Were you in foster care at age 18 or older? Yes No
a. If yes, in which state? _____ b. Were you on Medicaid? Yes No c. How old were you when you left foster care? _____

15. Did you have insurance through a job and lose it within the past 6 months? Yes No
a. If yes, end date: _____ b. Reason the insurance ended: _____

16. Are you a full-time student? Yes No

Step 2. Level of Care Assessment at your Local Governing Entity

Your [Local Governing Entity](#) (LGE) needs to complete an assessment to determine if the applicant meets the level of care requirement. You will receive a level of care packet, which contains documents to complete and return to LDH. **All forms must be filled out completely, supporting documentation provided (where indicated) and returned to LDH timely.**

Families will receive a packet to complete and return to Medicaid. The forms that you receive are dependent on which level of care pathway is deemed appropriate for your child. Your packet may contain these documents:

- Act 421-CMO cover letter with instructions on how to complete forms;
- [Authorization to Release or Obtain Health Information form \(HIPAA\)](#);
- [Child's Medical and Social Information form](#) (included for the MEDT disability determination); (and an Instruction Sheet); or a
- [Health Records Request Form](#).

The LGE completes the assessment by reviewing information and forms provided by the applicant **so it is important to follow the instructions in the level of care packet when completing the forms.**

Submit the completed level of care packet to Medicaid to upload into the eligibility system via:

- Fax to: 1-225-389-8019

- Email to: Itcprocessing@la.gov
- Mail to: Medicaid Application Office; 6069 1-49 Service Road, Suite B, Opelousas, LA 70570.

Or

- Upload the documents directly to your Medicaid account using the [self-service portal](#). The instructions on how to upload documents to your account is located [here](#).

Applicants that meet the level of care requirement continues to Step 3 of the enrollment process.

Step 3. Disability Determination

Applicants must meet the definition of disability as set forth by the Social Security Administration. Medicaid will request a disability decision from the Medical Eligibility Determination Team (MEDT) for applicants that do not have a disability determination with the Social Security Administration Office. MEDT may need additional documentation in order to reach a decision on the disability determination.

If you would like assistance in gathering the necessary medical records, you can sign an [Authorization to Release or Obtain Health Information Form \(HIPAA 202L\)](#) to obtain these records directly from the providers (physicians, home health, social service, etc.) that is in the level of care packet. This form is used to assist you in obtaining medical records needed to determine if your child meets the level of care and disability requirement for the Act 421-CMO program. Applicants that meet the disability requirement continues to Step 4.

Step 4. Enrollment/Service Coverage through a Healthy Louisiana plan

Applicants meeting the medical and financial

requirements will receive Medicaid coverage through a [Healthy Louisiana plan](#). When completing a Medicaid application, you can choose a Healthy Louisiana health and dental plan.

If you have not selected a health plan, enrollment in a health plan is automatic upon enrollment in Medicaid. The family will have 90 days from date of enrollment to change plans when automatic enrollment occurs. Louisiana Health Insurance Premium Program (LaHIPP)

If your child is enrolled in the Act 421-CMO (TEFRA) program, LaHIPP may pay for your individual insurance plan or your employer-sponsored insurance, subject to an annual review for cost-effectiveness.

You can apply for LaHIPP [here](#). Download the application and submit one of three ways:

- Email: La.HIPP@la.gov
- Fax: 1-855-618-5486
- Mail: LDH ATTN: LaHIPP P.O. Box 91030 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0930

If you are approved for LaHIPP, your child will be disenrolled from the Healthy Louisiana plan (MCO) for physical health services, but will remain enrolled for behavioral health and NEMT (Non-emergency medical transportation) services. Physical health services will be covered by fee-for-service (also known as traditional Medicaid).

This may affect whether your provider accepts your Medicaid coverage. Before enrolling in LaHIPP, you can use the "Find a Provider" tool to see if your child's doctor will accept Medicaid with LaHIPP. The tool can be found [here](#).

Please see the [Act 421 FAQs](#) for more

information on LaHIPP. For more information, visit the [LaHIPP web site](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

FAMILY OPPORTUNITY ACT

Family Opportunity Act Medicaid provides health coverage to uninsured or underinsured children who have disabilities in families with too much income to qualify for regular Medicaid or LaCHIP.

Family Opportunity Act Medicaid opens coverage up to children with disabilities in families with a higher income range, allowing families to buy in to the Medicaid Program.

EPSDT Personal Care Services

(See Long Term--Personal Care Services (LT-PCS) for Medicaid recipients ages 65 or older, or age 21 or older with disabilities) Physician and Personal Care Attendant Agencies

ELIGIBILITY:

All Medicaid recipients 0 through 20 years of age not receiving Individual Family Support waiver services. However, once a recipient receiving Individual Family Support waiver services has exhausted those services they are then eligible for EPSDT Personal Care Services. Recipients of Children's Choice Waiver can receive both PCS and Family Support Services on the same day; however, the services may not be rendered at the same time

COVERED SERVICES:

Basic personal care-toileting & grooming activities; Assistance with bladder and/or bowel requirements or problems; Assistance with eating and food preparation; Performance of incidental household chores, only for the recipient; Accompanying, not transporting, recipient to medical

appointments; Does NOT cover any medical tasks such as medication administration, tube feedings, urinary catheters, ostomy or tracheostomy care.

Medicaid Long-Term Care Services

Long-term services and supports are delivered in institutional and home and community-based settings. Medicaid coverage is available to eligible people receiving long-term care services in nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and home and community-based settings. Long-term care services may be more immediately available in a facility setting than other long-term care options.

Special Needs & Parent Support Services of LA, LLC - (SNAPSS, La)

Medicaid Help Line

Free Medicaid advocate assisting people with disabilities and complex medical needs navigate all Medicaid Services. Info, referral, resources, access to care, denials of care, appeals, elderly or developmental disability waivers.

Phone/Text: (504) 300-5117

Facebook: @SNAPSSLa

Messenger: @SNAPSSLa

Website: KarenScallan.com

Email: kcscallan@gmail.com

SOCIAL SECURITY

A child with a disability

Social Security does not yet have an online application for Children's benefits. Visit [Apply For Disability Benefits - Child \(Under Age 18\)](#) to [apply](#) for your child.

You can complete the online [Child Disability Report](#) if you are ready to apply now.

An adult with a disability

You can now file for Supplemental Security

Income (SSI) online but only if you meet certain requirements. You are eligible to file online for SSI if you:

- Are between the ages of 18 and 65
- have never been married
- Are not blind
- Are a U.S. citizen residing in one of the fifty states, District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Island
- haven't applied for or received SSI benefits in the past; and
- Are applying for Social Security Disability Insurance at the same time as your SSI claim.

Find out if you are eligible to receive [Social Security Disability Benefits](#).

Once you finish the online process, a Social Security representative will contact you for any additional information needed for the applications.

You can also schedule an appointment with a local Social Security office to file an application. Call **(800) 772-1213 TTY (800) 325-0778** from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday or [contact your local Social Security office](#). Learn more and start the disability process at our [Disability Benefits](#) page.

AUTISM RESOURCES IN LOUISIANA

Autism Society North Louisiana

Address: P.O. Box 15031, Monroe, LA
Website: www.autismsocietynorthla.com
Email: autismnorthla@gmail.com

Autism Society Southwest Louisiana

Address: P.O. Box 1805,
Lake Charles, LA 70602
Phone: (337) 855-2068
Website: www.autismsocietyofswla.com
Email: swautismchapter@gmail.com

Autism Society Greater New Orleans

Address: P.O. Box 7028, Metairie, LA 70010
Phone: (504) 603-6548
Website: www.asgno.org
Email: info@asgno.org

Autism Society Greater Baton Rouge

Address: P.O. Box 14587
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
Phone: (225) 221-7873
Website: www.autismsocietygbr.org
Email: autismsocietygbr@gmail.com

Autism Society Louisiana

Address: 12824 Arlingford Ave,
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
Phone: (800) 955-3760
Website: www.lastatechapter.com
Email: autismsociety_lastatechapter@yahoo.com

Autism Society Bayou

Address: P.O. Box 551, Amelia, LA 70340
Website: www.bayouautism.org
Email: bayouautism@yahoo.org

Autism Society Acadiana

Address: 3108 West Pinhook Road, Ste 101,
Lafayette, LA 70508
Phone: (337) 235-4425
Website: www.acadianaautism.com
Email: contact@acadianaautism.org

NATIONWIDE RESOURCES

[Autism Society of America](#)

55 years and counting, the Autism Society, including our nationwide network of affiliates, connects people to the resources they need through education, advocacy, support, information and referral, and community programming.

[Autism Speaks](#)

This is the world's leading Autism science and

advocacy organization. They're dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for Autism. They also increase awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders and advocate for the needs of individuals with Autism and their families. They have created several toolkits for [persons with autism](#), [parents](#), and [educators](#).

[National Autism Association](#)

The National Autism Association supports families and autistic individuals through six main areas of focus that include:

- Advocacy
- Research
- Education
- Direct tools
- Hope
- Thoughtful awareness

NAA runs several programs to support these areas of focus.

- Big Red Safety Box: This program provides tools to help families prevent wandering incidents.
- Big Red Safety Toolkit: This is a free resource shipped to teachers, school administrators, and aides to minimize dangerous wandering.
- Give a Voice: This program provides communication devices to autistic individuals who are minimally verbal or nonverbal.
- Autism ATRIUM: This program offers free education and training, including toolkits, webinars, and educational materials.

[Autism Self Advocacy Network](#)

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network seeks to advance the principles of the disability rights movement with regard to autism. ASAN believes that the goal of autism advocacy should be a world in which autistic people

enjoy equal access, rights, and opportunities. We work to empower autistic people across the world to take control of our own lives and the future of our common community, and seek to organize the autistic community to ensure our voices are heard in the national conversation about us. Nothing About Us, Without Us!

[Autism Research Institute](#)

The Autism Research Institute works to support the health and well-being of people affected by autism through innovative, impactful research, and education.

[Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative](#)

Founded in New York City, the Simons Foundation for Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) funds and performs scientific research to support the treatment, diagnosis, and understanding of autism. SFARI seeks to advance the science behind autism research by providing grants, tools, and opportunities to scientists and researchers as well as education and resources to families and individuals directly impacted by autism.

[Association for Science in Autistic Treatment](#)

The Association for Science in Autistic Treatment provides education and resources related to science-based treatments for autism. The organization advocates for the use of the scientific method and disseminates factual information to parents and the general public.

EQUINE THERAPY

GaitWay Therapeutic Horsemanship

Address: 1300 Lawrence Parkway

St. Gabriel, LA

Address: 152 Turner Road, Port Allen, LA

Phone: (225) 319-7344

Email: info@gaitway.org

Greater New Orleans Therapeutic Riding, Inc.

Address: P. O. Box 23284,

New Orleans, LA 70183-0284

Phone: (985) 651-5239

Email: info@gnotrc.com

Activities: Grooming & Tacking, Hippotherapy, Therapeutic Riding
Disabilities Served: ADD or other Hyperactivity Disorder, Amputee, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Developmental Delay or Disability, Downs Syndrome, Head Trauma/Brain Injury, Hearing Impairment, Learning Disability, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Orthopedic, Paralysis

Happy Trails Therapeutic Horsemanship Center, Inc.

Address: 17050 Hwy 16, Franklinton, LA

Phone: (985) 839-9736

Crossroads Riding Center

Address: 600 Claiborne Street, Pineville, LA

Phone: (318) 623-5507

Email: indabrocato@yahoo.com

Activities: Equine Facilitated Experiential Learning, Grooming & Tacking, Ground Work, Recreational Riding, Therapeutic Riding
Disabilities Served: At Risk Youth, Emotional, Behavioral, or Mental Health, and Substance Abuse.

Cascade Stables

Contact: Avery Bul Scheurich

Address: 700 East Dr, New Orleans, LA 70118

Phone: (504) 891-2246

Offers one-on-one saddle seat-riding instruction to children with disabilities; instructors are NOT certified in Therapeutic Horseback Riding but are comfortable teaching children and adults with disabilities.

FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES REGIONAL CENTERS

Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans

Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center (LaPTIC

Region 10 – serving parishes of Jefferson (LaPTIC – statewide)

Mary Jacob, Executive Director

Address: 700 Hickory Ave.

Harahan, Louisiana 70123

Phone: (504) 888-9111 or (800) 766-7736

Fax: (504) 353-2350

Email: info@fhofgno.org

Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana, Inc.

Region 1 – serving parishes of Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard

Aisha Johnson, Executive Director

Address: 2401 Westbend Parkway, Suite 3090, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Phone: (504) 943-0343 or (877) 243-7352

Fax: (504) 940-3242

Email: info@fhfsela.org

Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge, Inc.

Region 2 - serving parishes of East and West Baton Rouge, East and West Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, and Ascension

Dr. Marilyn Thornton, Executive Director

Address: 2356 Drusilla Lane

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Phone: (225) 216-7474 or (866) 216-7474

Fax: (225) 216-7977
Email: info@fhfgbr.org

Bayou Land Families Helping Families, Inc.

Region 3 – serving parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, Terrebonne

Charles S. Michel, Ed.D, Executive Director
Address: 286 Hwy. 3185
Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301
Phone: (985) 447-4461 or (800) 331-5570
Fax: (985) 447-7988
Email: bayoulandfhf@gmail.com

Families Helping Families of Acadiana, Inc.

Region 4 – serving parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermillion

Nicole Flores – Executive Director
Address: 100 Benman Rd.
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506
Phone: (337) 984-3458 or (855) 984-3458
Fax: (337) 984-3468
Email: info@fhfacadiana.org

Families Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana, Inc.

Region 5 – serving parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jeff Davis

Susan Riehn, Executive Director
Address: 324 W. Hale
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601
Phone: (337) 436-2570 or (800) 894-6558
Fax: (337) 436-2578
Email: info@fhfswla.org

Families Helping Families at the Crossroads of LA, Inc.

Region 6 – serving parishes of Avoyelles, Concordia, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon and Winn

Jim Sprinkle, Executive Director
Address: 2840 Military Hwy., Suite A
Pineville, Louisiana 71360

Phone: (318) 641-7373 or (800) 259-7200
Fax: (318) 640-4299
Email: fhfxroads@aol.com

Families Helping Families Region 7

Region 7 – serving parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, Desoto, Red River, Natchitoches, Sabine, and Webster

Chanel Jackson, Executive Director
Address: 215 Bobbie St., Suite 100,
Bossier City, Louisiana 71112
Phone: (318) 226-4541 or (877) 226-4541
Fax: (318) 226-4518
Email: info@fhfregion7.com

Families Helping Families of Northeast Louisiana, Inc.

Region 8 – serving parishes of Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, and West Carroll

Stacey Guidry-Little, Executive Director
Address: 5200 Northeast Road
Monroe, Louisiana 71203
Phone: (318) 361-0487 or (888) 300-1320
Fax: (318) 361-0417
Email: info@fhfnela.org

Northshore Families Helping Families, Inc.

Region 9 – serving parishes of Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington

Kathy Dillon, Executive Director
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Covington, Louisiana 70433
Phone: (985) 875-0511 or (800) 383-8700
Fax: (985) 875-9979
CSHS (985) 345-8300 or (877) 537-8700
Email: nfhf@bellsouth.net

LEGAL

Special Needs Trusts, interdiction, continued tutorship, guardianship, less restricted alternatives and more

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Vicknair Law Firm

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Alexandria, LA 71301

Phone: (844) 908-1206

Email: info@vicknairlawfirm.com

Estate planning, wills, trust/special needs trusts, probate, tax issues.

Crowell & Owens

Zebulon "Zeb" Winstead

Address: 934 3rdSt 6thfloor

PO Box 330

Alexandria, LA 71301

Phone: (318) 445-1488

Special needs trusts, estate planning, continuing tutorship, and interdiction

Theus Law Offices, LLC

Address: 1902 Jackson St

Alexandria, LA 71301

Phone: (318) 769-9395

Special needs trusts, estate planning, continuing tutorship, and interdiction

BATON ROUGE AREA

Losavio & DeJean LLC

Peter Losavio, Jr.

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Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Toll Free: (800) 835-5864

Phone: (225) 769-4200

Special needs trusts, estate planning, continuing tutorship, and interdiction

Legacy Estate & Elder Law of LA, LLC

Linda S. Melancon, Betty Raglin

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Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Phone: (225) 744-0027

Full service Special Needs Planning

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Alison C. Bondurant

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Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Phone: (225) 421-1800

Email: abondurant@daiglefisse.com

Estate planning, wills, trusts/special needs trusts, and various other areas of practice

Kadair Law Firm

Laurie Kadair

Address: 10630 N. Oak Hills Parkway, Suite A

Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Phone: (225) 766-5454

Estate planning, trusts/special needs trusts

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Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5801

Phone: (225) 387-2277

Special needs trusts, guardianship, continuing tutorship, and interdiction

Poche` Estate Planning Law Firm

Laura Poche`

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Phone: (225) 224-8099

Email: info@pochelaw.com

Estate planning, special needs trusts

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Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Phone: (225) 925-5252

Special needs trusts, estate planning, continuing tutorship, and interdiction

Newman, Mathis, Brady & Spedale

Bradley J. Spedale

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Baton Rouge, LA 70806
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Estate planning, wills, trusts, special needs trusts

Milling Benson Woodward LLP

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Federal, state and local tax matters; estate planning; elder and disability law; gift and estate taxation and planning

Taylor Porter Law Firm

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Estate planning, wills, trusts/special needs trusts, powers of attorney, tax law, and various other areas of practice

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Estate planning, wills, trusts/special needs trusts, powers of attorney, guardianship/tutorship for minor children, and various other areas of practice

Wiener, Weiss & Madison

Richard Lamb

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Baton Rouge, LA 70802
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Estate planning, successions/probate,

trusts/special needs trusts, wills, and other legal services

HOUMA/THIBODAUX AREA

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Houma, LA 70360
Phone: (985) 580-2520
Estate planning, wills, trusts, Medicaid law, special needs planning, asset protection; Certified Financial Planner

LAFAYETTE AREA

Theus Law Offices, LLC

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Suite 4200-A
Lafayette, LA 70508
Phone: (318) 541-8999
Special needs trusts, estate planning, continuing tutorship, and interdiction

Jankower Law Firm

Steve Jankower

Address: 110 Exchange Place, Suite 101
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Phone: (337) 289-1745
Email: Steve@jankower.com
Medicaid and estate planning for the elderly and for individuals with disabilities and special needs

LAKE CHARLES AREA

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Address: 518 Pujo St
PO Box 3305
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Toll Free: (877) 269-8978
Phone: (337) 513-0886
Estate planning, special needs trusts, health care directives and simple or complex wills, powers of attorney, interdictions & continuing tutorships, elder law

Sigler, Arabie & Cannon

Address: 630 Kirby St
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Phone: (337) 439-2033
Estate planning, wills, powers of attorney,
living wills, trusts/special needs trusts, real
estate and business law

Stutes & Lavergne

Address: 600 Broad St
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Phone: (337) 433-0022
207 North Church St
Jennings, LA 70546
(337) 246-9988
Email: info@stuteslaw.com
Estate planning, wills, donations, powers of
attorney, advanced directives, trusts/special
needs trusts, interdictions & continuing
tutorships

Taylor Porter Law Firm

John McDermott

Address: 145 East St
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Phone: (337) 436-7787
Email: john.mcdermott@taylorporter.com
Estate planning, wills, trusts/special needs
trusts, powers of attorney, tax law, and various
other areas of practice

MONROE AREA

Michael J. Rhymes, Attorney at Law

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Monroe, LA 71201
Phone: (318) 388-4500
Special needs trusts, interdiction, continuing
tutorship, and a wide range of legal services

G. Gregory Green, Attorney & Counselor at Law

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Monroe, LA 71201
Phone: (318) 322-4478

Email: lawofficegggreen@aol.com

Estate planning, wills, trusts/special needs
trusts, social security & disability, interdictions
and continuing tutorships

GREATER NEW ORLEANS AREA

Legacy Estate & Elder Law of LA, LLC

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New Orleans, LA 70119
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Full service Special Needs and elder care
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Katherine F. (Katy) Buchler

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Metairie, LA 70001
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Morrison Law Group PLC

Chip Morrison

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Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: (504) 831-2348
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trusts; probate, successions, elder law
Medicaid planning

John E. Sirois

Address: One Galleria Blvd Suite 735
Metairie, LA 70001
**Metairie office open by appointment only; see
Hammond office for more info*
Phone: (985) 580-2520
Estate planning, wills, trusts, Medicaid law,
special needs planning, asset protection;
Certified Financial Planner
Estate planning, including trusts/special needs
trusts; various other areas of practice

Ronda M. Gabb & Associates, LLC

Address: 3501 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 300
Metairie, LA 70002

Phone: (800) 738-4222

Email: reception@rondamgabb.com

A Louisiana Estate Planning & Elder Law Practice devoted entirely to Estate Planning, including Wills, Trusts, Successions and Estate Administrations, Elder Law, Medicaid, VA Benefits, Special Needs and Life Care Planning issues

Sessions, Fishman & Nathan, LLP

Joel A. Mendler

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Email: jmendler@sessions-law.com

Carole Neff

Email: cneff@sessions-law.com

Address: 400 Poydras St. Suite 2550
New Orleans, LA 70130

Phone: (504) 582-1510

Estate planning, elder law and special needs planning, bankruptcy law, product liability law, and various other areas of practice

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Email: smoragas@millinglaw.com

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Estate planning and related legal services to clients of all ages, with a focus on the needs of older or disabled individuals and their families.

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Phone: (504) 662-9596

Services for parents with minor and adult children with disabilities including special (supplemental) needs trusts and continuing tutorship.

The Law Office of Michael A. Tusa, LLC

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Phone: (504) 833-0785

Special needs trusts, taxation, other areas of practice

Spera Law Group

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Estate planning, special needs trusts

Denechaud and Denechaud, LLC

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Estate planning, special needs trusts; nonprofit organizations, commercial law, corporate law, business law, real estate

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Estate planning, wills, successions,
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Low Profit Law Group of Louisiana, L3C

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Sliding scale fees; Family law, interdiction;
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including living wills, trusts/special needs
trusts, and medical power of attorney;
Bankruptcy; Real Estate and business law

Loyola University College of Law

Cheryl Buchert, Clinical Professor of Law

Phone: (504) 861-5599

Loyola University College of Law is offering
Continuing Tutorship services for families that
live in Orleans or Jefferson Parish. The Loyola
Law Clinic does not charge attorney fees;
however, the parents will need to pay for any
court costs and/or recording fees. There is a
financial eligibility which is 200% of the federal
poverty guidelines. Financial eligibility will be
discussed with the potential client during a
telephone interview. Services are provided by
students under the close supervision of Ms.
Buchert, and are offered during fall and spring
semesters on a first-come, first-served basis.

NORTH SHORE AREA

Branton Law Firm

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Covington, LA 70433

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Family law, wills, special needs trusts

Vicknair Law Firm

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Estate planning, wills, trust/special needs
trusts, probate, tax issues

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Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Successions and
Estate Administrations, Elder Law, Medicaid,
VA Benefits, Special Needs and Life Care
Planning issues

Nicaud & Sunseri Law Firm, LLC

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Services for parents with minor and adult
children with disabilities including special
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Estate planning, wills, successions,
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SHREVEPORT AREA

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Joseph Gilsoul

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Full service special needs and estate planning

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Estate planning, tutorships, interdiction, wills,
trusts/special needs trusts

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Estate planning, wills, trusts/special needs
trusts, interdictions, continuing tutorships,
family law

Weems, Schimpf, Haines, Shemwell & Moore

Kyle Moore, Michael Carney

Address: 912 Kings Highway
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Wiener, Weiss & Madison

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Shreveport, LA 71101
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Email: rlamb@wwmlaw.com
Estate planning, successions/probate,
trusts/special needs trusts, wills, and other
legal services

TAKEN FROM Legacy Estate & Elder Law of LA, LLC website:

Do you have a child or adult who is physically or mentally disabled? If so, it is very likely that you will need to create a special needs trust as a part of your estate planning. Very often, those with special needs are receiving needs-based government assistance in the form of Supplemental Security Income "SSI" and/or Medicaid. If your loved one receives an inheritance from you, that inheritance may disqualify them for their SSI or Medicaid. To ensure this does not happen, you will need to create a special needs trust to hold their inheritance. This type of special needs trust is called a third-party special needs or supplemental

needs trust because it is created with the assets of someone other than the person receiving government benefits. When you create the special needs trust, you appoint a trustee to manage the assets in the trust for the benefit of the special needs trust beneficiary. In this way, the assets in the special needs trust can be used for your loved one's benefit, but the assets will not disqualify them from receiving SSI or Medicaid.

Often, someone who is receiving SSI or Medicaid receives an inheritance or is involved in an accident and receives a settlement, the receipt of this money will disqualify them from receiving those SSI or Medicaid benefits. To allow them to continue receiving those benefits, a first-party special needs trust (also known as a self-settled or a d(4)(a)) can be created and the assets received in the inheritance or settlement can be placed in this trust so the SSI and/or Medicaid benefits can continue to be received. This type of trust is called a first-party special needs or supplemental needs trust because it holds the assets of the person who is receiving the benefits.

In addition to creating special needs trusts, there are also many other considerations that families with special needs members should consider as a part of their overall estate planning. One of the most important things to consider is ensuring the special needs person will have the necessary income and assets they will need to live comfortably during their lifetime. A life insurance policy naming the special needs trust as its beneficiary is a good way to ensure the special needs person has those necessary resources. There are also special considerations when retirement plan assets are left to a special needs trust as it could create adverse tax consequences or the inadvertent loss of SSI or Medicaid when distributions have to be made from those retirement assets.

Another important consideration in special needs planning is the use of a letter of intent. Although not a legal document, a special needs lawyer can assist you in drafting a letter of intent. This document memorializes the information that only

you may know about your special needs child's medical history, habits, likes and dislikes, experiences and wishes so those who come behind you as your child's caregiver can have this invaluable knowledge to assist with your child's care.

It is also possible that your child with special needs will need to have a legal guardian (what is known in Louisiana as a curator or a tutor) appointed for them when they turn 18 since Louisiana law will presume they have legal capacity to make decisions for themselves even if this is not the case. They may also need someone to act as their legal representative after you are no longer able to do so.

These and many more issues should be addressed for families with a special needs person. At Legacy Estate & Elder Law, our attorneys are well-versed in special needs planning and we are members of the [Academy of Special Needs Planners](#), an organization devoted to providing resources to families with special needs members and attorneys who practice in this area of the law.

Creating a detailed plan for the disabled individual can eliminate stress and confusion in the long-run and can provide you peace of mind now in knowing that you have planned for your loved one with special needs when you can no longer provide care and financial support for them.

MUSIC THERAPISTS

Private practice

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New Orleans, LA 70125

Phone: (504) 281-8968

Email: lovesmusictherapy@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.lovesmusictherapy.com>

RECREATION

Art

[NOLArts Learning Center](#)

Address: 1215 Prytania St. #424,
New Orleans, LA 70130

Phone: (914) 844-5053 / (410) 693-5305

E-mail: NOLArtslearningcenter@gmail.com

NOLArts Learning Center is a nonprofit which creates opportunities for young people with autism and other special needs to engage with the New Orleans cultural community through creative projects, performances and events. Through advocacy and education, NOLArts promotes inclusion and acceptance of diverse abilities.

Social

Cortez Caravan Special Dance Group – Social group that holds dances and events.

Address: 3310 Florida Ave., Kenner, La. 70065

Contact: Dave Doll

Phone: (504) 458-1328

Contact: Susan Brumfield

Phone: (504) 455-6845

Jefferson Parish Recreation Department Pinnacles - East Bank

Address: Ree Alario Center, 6921 Saints Drive
Metairie, LA 70003

Contact: Leslie H. Dunn, Recreation

Special Programs Supervisor

Phone: (504) 736-6999 ext. 110

Email: LDunn@jeffparish.net

Jefferson Parish Recreation Department – West Bank

Contact: Susan Hirschman

Phone: (504) 349-5000

People First of NOLA - Meets every 3rd
Tuesday of the Month from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Contact: Leona Harris | Families Helping
Families of NOLA

Address: Ashé Cultural Arts Center
1712 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70113
Phone: (504) 943-0343

[Arc of Greater New Orleans \(ArcGNO\) – Krewe of Arc Social Club](#)

Address: 925 Labarre Rd., Metairie, LA 70003

Phone: (504) 837-5105

Fax: (504) 831-4107

Email: vstamant@arcgno.org

The Krewe of Arc Social Club was established at the Arc of Greater New Orleans to provide leisure and recreation activities for individuals after hours. The activities are planned by the club members and club advisors and also by Arc staff and volunteers. The club hosts various club fundraisers to fund numerous club activities. Club dues cost \$5.00 per month and are due each month on the 17th. The Krewe of Arc is open to all Arc clients.

[Autism Society of Greater New Orleans \(ASGNO\)](#)

Address: P.O. Box 7028, Metairie, LA 70010

Phone: (504) 464-5733

Email: info@asgno.org

Services include: Brushes, Buddies and Beyond for Autism (Art Club) in Chalmette and Metairie, Family Game Night in Slidell and New Orleans, Sensory Friendly Film Program at participating AMCs on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday (7pm) and Saturday (10am), Annual Autism Awareness Festival, resource directory, Mini-Grant Program for teachers and families, and links to advocacy resources.

[Boy Scouts of America – Southeast Louisiana Council](#)

Address: 4200 S. I-10 Service Rd. West,
Metairie, LA 70001

P.O. Box 1146, Metairie, LA 70004

Phone: (504) 889-0388 / (800) 394-9410

Fax: (504) 889-1162

Scouting is a year-round program uniquely designed to meet the needs of young people and their families. The program offers fun and challenging activities that promote character development and physical fitness. Family involvement is an essential part of the program, and parents are encouraged to play an active role in making the most of the short time they have to impact the lives of their children.

Southeast Louisiana Council serves Scouting in Southeast Louisiana Parishes of Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemine, St. John the Baptist, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. Tammany, and Terrebonne

[Girl Scouts Louisiana East](#)

Address: 841 S. Clearview Pkwy.

New Orleans, LA 70121

Phone: (504) 733-8220 / (800) 644-7571

Fax: (504) 733-8219

Email: customercare@gsle.org

We're 2.6 million strong—1.8 million girls and 800,000 adults who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)[™] to change the world. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts Louisiana East serves the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

Champions of Greater New Orleans

Contact: Dee Ducote

Address: P.O. Box 1114, Metairie, LA70004

Phone: (504) 390-1995

Email: championsofgno@yahoo.com

CGNO is a Louisiana non-profit group serving children, teens and young adults with differing abilities and their families. Champions provide social, recreational and educational activities. Our members have fun while forging new friendships and developing social and life skills. We have meetings, field trips, an annual family camping trip, a yearly dance, and a support system and fellowship for parents or caregivers. Siblings are welcome to participate in all activities.

Sports

[S.M.C.L. Foundation](#) - Established in March 2006 to improve the quality of life of our veterans or youth with disabilities and those who are economically disadvantaged in the Metro New Orleans Community and Southeast Louisiana. The Rollin' Pelicans are a Division 3 wheelchair basketball team and represent Louisiana as members of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA). The team is supported by SMCL **[Adaptive/Paralympic Sport Club of New Orleans](#)**.

Contact: Julius Lee

Phone: (504) 450-4014

Email: jleepva@cox.net

[The Miracle League of Greater New Orleans](#)

The Miracle League provides all children with special needs, regardless of their level of disability, the opportunity to play league sports and be part of a team.

Address: 200 Henry Clay

New Orleans, LA 70118

Phone: (504) 894-5415 or (504) 899-9511

Email: glorio@chnola.org

[The Miracle League Northshore](#)

We provide any disabled child, regardless of their level of disability, the opportunity to play league sports and enjoy the emotional and physical benefits of being part of a team sport.

Address: 13505 Highway 1085
Covington, LA 70433
Phone: (504) 301-7614
Email: lira.casborne@lcmchealth.org

Special Olympics Louisiana Area 1 - Greater New Orleans | Area 1 is comprised of the following parishes: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines.

- Fall – Bowling
- Winter – Basketball
- Spring – Bocce, Athletics
- Summer – Swimming, Softball

Area Leader: Gabe Feldman
Phone: (202) 441-6280
Email: GNO@laso.org

New Orleans Fencers Club - Offers seated and wheelchair fencing for all ages and abilities.
Phone: (504) 430-0053

The League of Angels

Email: angels.league@yahoo.com
Did you know the League Of Angels accepts players from all over! You don't have to be a resident of St Bernard to join our league. All are welcomed. The League of Angels will offer a chance for the special needs community to play sports and be one with Da Parish.
Address: Val Riess Park Chalmette
1101 Magistrate St.
Chalmette, LA 70043

Ski-Dawgs Adaptive Water Skiing

Think Adaptive skiing is just for someone in a wheelchair. Think again! Adaptive skiing doesn't mean just someone in a wheelchair, if you have any kind of disability that prevents you from skiing the traditional way then adaptive skiing may be for you.
Phone: David (985) 516-8283
[Adaptive/Paralympic Sport Club of New Orleans-Contact Us](#)

ACEing Autism

Address: Audubon Tennis Courts: 6320 Tchoupitoulas St, New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: (310) 288-0120
Email: info@aceingautism.org
Provides sports-related (tennis) intervention for children age 10 and up who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Scholarships for the program are available upon request. Racquets and all equipment are provided by the organization.

Swimming

Cross Gates Family Fitness

Autism Swims – First Friday of the Month. 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. event for members/non-members and their families. Sign up at the desk.
Address: 1131 Gause Blvd, Slidell, LA 70458.
Phone: (985) 643-3500

Jo Jo's Hope Therapeutic Swimming at

Elmwood Fitness Center - JoJo's Hope focuses on an interactive aquatic curriculum that includes games, songs, and laughter. Sessions are on Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays. Activity programs are adapted to meet the needs of individuals with mental or physical limitations. The therapeutic programs

are specially designed for those with Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Autism, Down syndrome, and other disabilities. JoJo's (ages 6 months-100 years) Cost is \$30/month for insurance coverage.

Address: 102 High Avenue Metairie, LA
Phone: (504) 957-9962

Love Swimming - Year-round, indoor swimming school offering lessons for ages 6 months to adult.

Address: 5221 S. Front Street New Orleans
Phone: (504) 891-4662
Email: loveswimmingnola@gmail.com

Jewell's Pool

Address: 2315 Alcide Drive Marrero, LA

Phone: (504) 218-8800

Fitness

BeMo Buddies - Be More Human

Performance's Special Needs Program

When it comes to special needs training, we focus on exercise & movements that will challenge the mind & the body. Here at Be More we focus on decreasing muscle atrophy as well as, brain atrophy. This means we help the clients learn more, retain more, relieve stress, alleviate anxiety, & improve overall mental health.

Address: 305 N. Vermont St.

Covington, LA 70433

Phone: (985) 768-9334

SOCIAL SKILLS GROUPS

The Behavior Guru - We service the greater New Orleans area from ages 0+. Services include ABA therapy, Functional Behavior Assessments, Behavior Intervention Plans, Individual Consultations, Direct Intervention, **Social Skills Instruction**, Parent/Family Training, Teacher Training, IEP attendance, and Workshops.

Contact: Mindy Rothstein, PhD, BCBA-D

Address: New Orleans, LA 70115

Phone: (504) 345-8222

E-mail: contact@thebehaviorguru.com

The Behavioral Intervention Group - Our learning center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana provides Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy, **Social Skills Training**, Academic Tutoring and Parent Coaching for children with autism and other developmental disorders.

Address: 7222 Bluebonnet Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Phone: (225) 757-8002

Fax: (225) 757-8822

E-mail: admin@big-br.com

Children's Autism Center - Social Skills Group

- For children four years and older who are verbal and could benefit from group treatment
- Designed to target crucial social interaction skills
- Groups meet once per week for 8-14 weeks (dependent on the child's age and group)
- Caregivers of participating children meet concurrently to learn ways to support children with skills.
- Groups occur on a rotating basis
- Documentation of ASD diagnosis required
- Advanced registration is

required/Insurance accepted

Address: 210 State Street

New Orleans, LA 70118

Phone: (504) 896-7272

McNeese Autism Program - The McNeese Autism Program provides comprehensive treatment services for children with autism spectrum disorders. Our services include intensive early interventions, problematic behavior clinics, **social skills groups**, language training, pediatric feeding problem interventions, and family training. Our experienced professional staff is comprised of Board Certified Behavior Analysts who are committed to the highest standards of evidence-based practice for your child's specific needs and work closely with you to design the very best treatment for your child.
Address: 4205 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA
Phone: (337) 475-5000 or (800) 622-3352

SOAR Autism Center - We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization offering applied behavior analysis therapy (ABA), speech therapy, **social skills**, life skills, independent living skills, educational advocacy, support network meetings, lending library, resources, workshops and training's, as well as community events, adult social events and support. We accept most insurances including Medicaid for ABA.

Contact: Sherri Houin, Executive Director/CEO

Address: 21 Industrial Pkwy., Bldg. A,
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Phone: (985) 370-2300

Fax: (844) 205-7627

E-mail: Shouin@soarwithautism.org

St. Nicholas Center - St. Nicholas Center offers a wide range of services including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Skills training, and diagnostic testing.

Services are provided to children with autism, developmental delays, and neurological disorders in a fun loving, and educational environment.

Address: 2519 Ryan St., Lake Charles, LA 70601

Phone: (337) 491-0800

Fax: (337) 491-0508

Email: info@stnickcenter.org

SUPPORT GROUPS

[Advocating for Our Exceptional Kids \(River Parishes Area\)](#)

This group is about sharing our knowledge of opportunities and experiences for our special needs children in the River Parish and the surrounding areas. Its primary goal is to serve as a platform for sharing advice, connections to therapies, dates of local events, lessons and anything beneficial for our kids. Feel free to post information that would be helpful and positive for our group!

[Autism Society of Acadiana Vermillion Parish Support Group](#)

[Autism Society of Greater New Orleans Virtual Parent Support Group](#)

ASGNO is thrilled to continue to offer our community-based parent-led parent support group! Our parent support group is a safe place to seek advice, and support from your peers who are experiencing the same struggles that you are. Seek solidarity, support, and suggestions that have worked for other people just like you!

[Champions of GNO](#)

Champions of Greater New Orleans is a group started by a family member of a teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The family had been frustrated by the lack of recreation and guided social opportunities for teenagers and

young adults in the New Orleans area with varying abilities.

[Colorful Connections NOLA](#)

Hello, welcome to Colorful Connections Nola. I am Dewain Baldwin. My friend Marie and I started this group for people with autism and other disabilities. We are a loving group and strive to be inclusive of ALL identities.

We are looking to bring everyone together in the disabilities community to show them a good time. We want everyone to have access to fun recreational activities and social events like movie nights, playing fun games, etc. We are something special, we started with a fun small group, and now we have over 140 members so far! So if you're looking for something new to get into in New Orleans, please come join our fun Colorful Connections group and we will take good care of you and we will come together to help everyone out. For feedback and questions, please message us.

[Chase Answers - GROUP](#)

I think that as parents going through some of the same struggles, we can help each other by sharing our experiences (negative or positive). Sometimes I just want to hear the opinion of another mom who really understands. Please feel free to share information on treatments, doctors, books, therapists, conferences, biomedical, homeopathy, HBOT, local resources or events, whatever you'd like.

[Disability Advocacy Network for All](#)

We strive to assist and advocate for persons with disabilities so that we can live up to our FULL potential in the community. In the workplace, home, school, church, grocery store, park, or anywhere else we may go. Please let us know how we can help!

[**GRASS \(GReater AScension Special needs\)**](#)

The GReater AScension Special needs group (GRASS) is a closed group for adult individuals who are differently abled and parents/guardians of individuals with special needs to share ideas, experiences, resources, equipment, etc. that may be helpful to others. This group is meant to be a safe place for people to share their feelings and to support each other.

[**LAdisABILITY Talk**](#)

LAdisABILITY Talk is a Louisiana statewide, online group where we can Talk Everyday All Day about disABILITY issues! Ask questions, share and make comments to Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans and Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center staff and your peers about anything disability-related.

[**LaPAC - Louisiana Parents of Adult Children with Disabilities**](#)

LaPAC is a statewide, online group where we can Talk Everyday All Day about disABILITY issues that are specific to parents (or family members) of ADULT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. Ask questions, share and make comments to Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans staff and your peers about anything disability-related.

[**Louisiana 22q Support Network**](#)

The Louisiana 22q Support Network connects and supports families affected by 22q11.2 deletion syndrome (sometimes referred to as velo cardio facial syndrome or Digeorge syndrome) in Louisiana and surrounding areas.

[**Louisiana Autism and Special Needs Support Group**](#)

[**Louisiana Emergency Resources for those**](#)

[**with Disabilities**](#)

This group is for emergency resources in Louisiana for those with disabilities. Only posts on emergency resources for those with disabilities in Louisiana are allowed.

[**New Orleans Mom Special Needs Moms**](#)

An online group for moms of children with special needs, sponsored by New Orleans Moms Blog.

[**NOLA Autism Parent's & Caregivers**](#)

A place where parents, and caregivers of people with autism spectrum disorder. Can share local events, and information. PLEASE share any helpful information you may have with our group!

[**Nola Warrior Moms**](#)

Support for moms with kids that need a little extra.

[**NOLA Down Syndrome Moms**](#)

Welcome! This is a safe space to ask questions, lean on other moms, and trade information about services in NOLA. Introduce yourself if you are new! So happy you are here.

[**Northshore Parents & Caregivers of Individuals with Disabilities**](#)

This group organization is for parents and caregivers for networking, supporting, encouraging, and discussing all aspects of raising/caring for a child/teenager/adult with special needs here on the Northshore! It is my hope that this can bring about awareness and advocacy for our children and their diagnoses in our area, along with having each other to lean on as not many understand our complex lives. I also hope this group can provide information on the developmental disability services that are available for our children and how to go about signing up for them. Your

questions are always welcomed and encouraged!

Sensory Processing Disorder Parent Support - Jeanette Loftus

The best, most awesome, largest & busiest Sensory Processing Disorder Page :) Welcome to our SPD family, Welcome to our SPD community :)

SOAR with Autism Support Group

This group is for individuals who want to share information, resources, personal stories, or anything autism. This a closed sub group of SOAR-Strengthening Outcomes with Autism Resources, a Louisiana non-profit organization created by parents of children with autism.

St. Bernard Parents & Caregivers of Individuals with Disabilities

This group is for parents and caregivers for networking, supporting, encouraging, and discussing all aspects of raising/caring for a child/teenager/adult with special needs in St. Bernard Parish! It is my hope that this group can bring about awareness and advocacy for our children and their diagnoses in our area, along with having each other to lean on as not many understand our complex lives. I also hope this group can provide information on the developmental disability services that are available for our children and how to go about signing up for them. Your questions are always welcomed and encouraged!

Training Grounds

Every Step Together Program - Autism Support for Parents and Children

The We PLAY Center offers support to parents and families of children on the autism spectrum.

We provide parents the opportunity to

network with other parents in an informal setting. We do this by offering online and in-person support where parents use play to build positive and fun relationships. Through play and joint activities, the child is encouraged to boost language, social and cognitive skills.

Join fellow parents on this journey whether your awaiting an evaluation, diagnosis, are ready to start therapy, or just want to learn more. This group is for YOU!

Weekly support group for parents of children ages 1-5 who:

- Have been referred by a physician or community partner for an evaluation
- Have recently been diagnosed with autism and are awaiting therapy
- Need resources and a safe welcoming community

Meetings will take place on 5 consecutive Mondays.

Address: 2200 Lafitte St.

New Orleans, LA 70119

Phone: (504) 901- 0606

Email: support@mytraininggrounds.org