AFC'S GUIDE TO

Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorder and Education

May2024

Copyright © 2024 by Advocates for Children of New York, Inc.

This guide to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is for parents, caregivers, and advocates of ch
with ASD in New York City. We hope this guide will help readers recognize signs of ASD, know
to go for help, and know their rights in the education sys tem.

clinician to rule out other possible disabilities. Early diagnosis is very important because early intervention and awareness can result in positive outcomes for children with autism.

The first step is to tell your child's pediatrician if you are worried about your child's development and ask for a developmental screening. Be as specific as you can when describing your concerns: your child's behavior, language, eye contact, play skills, etc.

There are a number of screening tools for autism. A list of some of these may be found on the CDC's website.

TIP:

If your child is non-verbal (doesn't talk), be sure to ask that the evaluation includes non-verbal testing tools. Your child may have knowledge that he/she cannot express through words.

EVALUATIONS FOR SERVICES

If you think that your child may have a delay or disability, including autism, you can ask these agencies for an evaluation about services:

Early Intervention (EI):

EI is for children from birth to 3 years of age, and is run by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. See page 6.

The Department of Education (DOE) or New York City Public Schools ("NYCPS"):

For children 3-5 The