



هيئة أبوظبي للطفولة المبكرة
Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority

Abu Dhabi Early Intervention Guide

Part of Abu Dhabi Strategy
for People of Determination 2020-2024



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Introduction

2 What is Early Childhood Intervention and why is it important?

What are developmental delays and disabilities?
What are Early Childhood Intervention Services?
Who is available in my local area to help me?
My child has been assessed, what do I do next?
What parents can do to support children's development
Questions to ask my service providers and what to look for

3 How do I find the right services for my child in Abu Dhabi?

What does the journey look like for my child?
How do I find the right services for my child?
What do I need to know about Insurance Coverage?

4 How do I get additional support and advice?

Where can I find additional support and help?
How do I apply for a Person of Determination (PoD) Card?
More information about the Aounak Card
How do I plan my child's nursery or school transition?

5 Directory for Early Childhood Intervention Services

6 Glossary



1



INTRODUCTION

This guide will provide information on early childhood intervention services that are available to families for children with development delays or disabilities in Abu Dhabi

If you are the parent or caregiver of a child with a diagnosed or suspected developmental delay or disability, then this guide will help you find the information you need to act on their behalf. A real difference can be made if we act early to support a child's developmental progress. Research tells us that the earlier we access professional support, the greater the positive impact on children's learning and development and indeed, their future.

This guide will help direct you to the right supports and services when you have concerns about your child's development or if your child has a disability. It explains why early childhood intervention can have positive long-term outcomes for your child and for those who love and care for them.

The information will enable you to make decisions about the services that best suit your family and child's needs and will help you to make sense of the various options that can sometimes be confusing.

This guide can also assist early childhood practitioners looking to provide advice to you and your family on early childhood intervention.

2



WHAT IS EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Early childhood intervention gives children the support they need to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential. Connecting with these services as early as possible can lead to improved outcomes for your child's development.

Early intervention services aim to support the health and wellbeing of your child with a developmental delay or disability and your family. Importantly, these services work with you and your family to provide your child with experiences and opportunities that improve their skills, abilities and development.¹

During assessment and diagnosis, it may have been recommended that early intervention services are appropriate for your child. Every child and their family are unique, have different needs and require varying levels of support which may change as the child grows and develops. So understanding your child's specific strengths and challenges, their needs and wants and the needs of your family will help you to determine what, if any, services should be accessed.

Early childhood intervention includes the services and supports that children with a developmental delay or disability and their family receive.

Interventions should start as early as possible in order to promote positive development experiences, healthy wellbeing and effective community participation. Early intervention practitioners will work with you and your family and with the child who has a developmental challenge. They will help build your own knowledge, skills and confidence to actively support your child's development and provide appropriate and timely interventions that are based on evidence and research.



The most critical time for your child's development and learning is in their first five years of life. The first one thousand days are especially important as they undergo rapid growth in all aspects of their development during this period.

At this critical time in your child's life accessing early childhood intervention services can improve their quality of life, by supporting their development and minimizing the impact of additional developmental delays and/or disabilities.

What are developmental delays and disabilities?

Developmental delay refers to a child whose development is significantly behind the expected milestones for their age.

A child who experiences **developmental delay** displays slower progress towards developmental milestones than other children of their age.

Developmental delays are measured using standard assessment methods and may be classified as mild, moderate, or severe. Developmental delays are not always permanent but can be early indicators that a child may experience a disability.

A disability is any condition of the body or mind that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities.² Examples of disabilities that can affect young children include cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, and vision and hearing impairments. The impact of a disability on a child's life varies greatly between children. Some disabilities may be difficult for others to recognize while some may be more obvious.

Children of Determination & People of Determination

In the UAE, persons with special needs or disabilities are referred to as 'people of determination' and 'children of determination' to recognize their achievements in different fields.

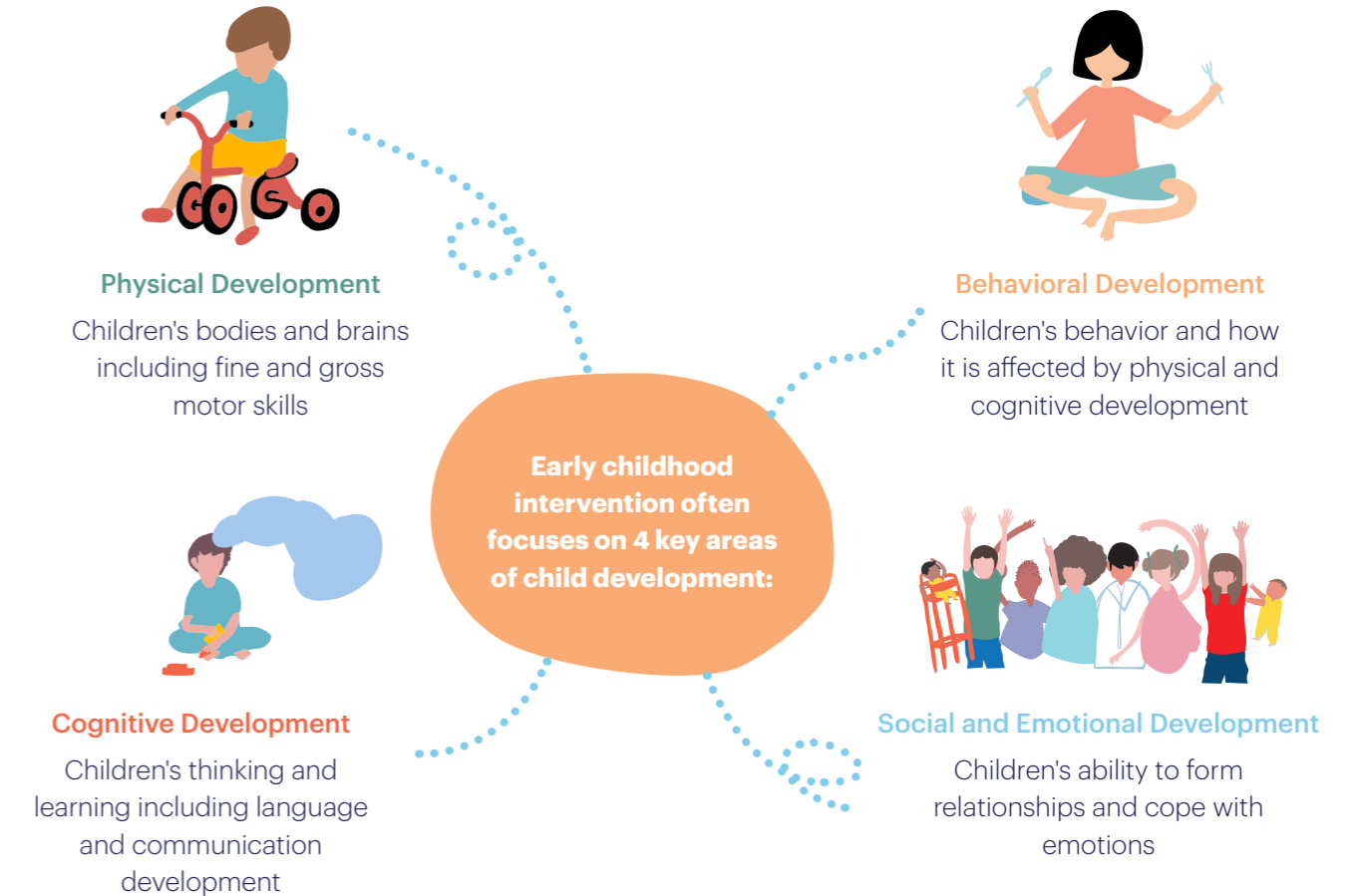
A person with special needs is someone experiencing a temporary or permanent, full or partial limitation or illness in their physical, sensory, mental, communication, educational or psychological abilities to an extent that restricts their ability to participate in ordinary, everyday activities.



What are Early Childhood Intervention Services?

Early childhood intervention services include the support and therapies that professionals and organizations offer to your child and help you, the parent or caregiver, achieve the best outcomes possible for your child. These organizations might

offer one specific service in a single location or multiple services across several locations. Where possible, these services are provided in the child's natural (e.g., home) environment.



Examples of services can include

- Therapy-based intervention and rehabilitation
 - Applied behavior analysis
 - Occupational therapy
 - Physiotherapy
 - Speech and language pathology
 - Social work
- Family focused coaching and counselling support
- Social and psychological counselling and support

- Inclusive and special education
- Assistance and support to access mainstream services
- Community activities

These services can be delivered through a variety of settings including health-care clinics, hospitals, early intervention centers, therapy centers, community centers, early childhood programs, homes, and schools.³



Who is available in my local area to help me?

Your local doctor or pediatrician is an important first step in accessing the specialist support and/or service that you require for your child. They can help you with assessments, provide specialist referrals, co-ordinate service provision and be a trusted advisor and advocate for you, your family and your child. In this document we refer to all of the professionals and paraprofessionals as **practitioners**.

Early interventionists are health or social care practitioners (professionals and paraprofessionals) who work in partnership with you and your family, caregivers, nursery workers and educators to support the development of your child's skills and enable them to participate in everyday activities. They provide strategies, activities and opportunities that will promote your child's learning, development, and support their full involvement in the community.⁴

One or more of the below practitioners may be recommended for your child throughout their early childhood intervention journey. The most common ones include:

Certified Applied Behavior Analysts

Applied behavior analysts support children and their families to understand and change behavior through a range of different strategies and techniques which can be used to teach children new skills. Applied behavior analysts are frequently used to support children diagnosed with autism and behavioral issues.⁵ In considering an Applied Behavior Analyst the following acronyms are commonly used:

- **BCBA or Board-Certified Behavior Analyst** is a graduate-level professional in behavior analysis who is able to practice independently and provide supervision for BCaBAs and RBTs.
- **BCaBA or Board-Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst** is an undergraduate-level professional in behavior analysis who practices under the supervision of a BCBA.
- **RBT or Registered Behavior Technician** is a paraprofessional in behavior analysis who

practices under the close ongoing supervision of a BCBA or BCaBA.

Occupational Therapists

Occupational Therapists support children to build skills and develop independence in everyday activities such as getting dressed, learning, mealtimes, and play. This may involve providing a child with specialist equipment to support their activities, such as specialized bathing equipment or wheelchairs. Their aim is to support children to gain the highest possible level of participation in daily life.

Physiotherapists

Physiotherapists support skill development in the areas of movement, posture, and balance. They aid caregivers through providing strategies for positioning, carrying, and encouraging overall motor development, and can also strengthen the fitness and skills required for activities such as sports. Physiotherapists can recommend and provide specialized equipment to assist a child's development or mobility including orthotics, walking frames, and wheelchairs.⁶

Psychologist

Psychologists specialize in the treatment of a wide range of social, behavioral, emotional, or educational issues and disorders that affect children. Psychologists who work primarily with children conduct assessments and engage in therapy sessions with individuals, families and groups.

Speech and language pathologists/therapists

Speech pathologists support children to develop their communication and language skills, in addition to everyday tasks such as chewing and swallowing. This can include helping families to build an effective environment for children to communicate and interact in; and helping children to develop their social skills or use alternative methods of communicating when required, which may include a communication board or specialized devices.

Social workers

Social workers provide information, advocacy and counselling for individuals, couples, and families. They assess the needs of families and

can refer them to the required services in addition to providing support to families adjusting to a diagnosis of developmental delay or disability.⁷

My child has been assessed, what do I do next?

After assessment or diagnosis, it is key to explore the best pathway for your child, yourself and your family through discussion with your local doctor or pediatrician, a social worker, or other experts. The more you are aware of options and opportunities, the more you can make informed decisions in collaboration with specialists.

Early intervention can provide a great foundation to establish skill-building routines in everyday life. Generally, all children will spend more time with their family, friends or caregivers in their natural environment than working with a practitioner. Therefore, it is important to get to know your

child's support team and help them understand your specific wants and needs. The more they know you, your child, and your family, the better they can work with you to develop strategies that best address your child's wants and needs.⁸

Embed activities in daily life

Provide your child with a supportive environment to grow the skills that support their ongoing development. It is best when teachers, other family members and childcare workers are informed of any strategies and follow these activities as well.



All families are unique and different. It is important that families and practitioners work together as active and equal partners, where planning and interventions for the child are based on a family's life, priorities and choices.

Citation Early Childhood approach
A guide for health professionals

Work as a partner with early intervention practitioners

Work collaboratively and productively with practitioners to understand the best path forward for your child. Ensure that you are comfortable with your selected service provider and continue to work with them to understand you and your child's needs and goals for outcomes from therapy. The practitioner should prioritize working with you to find solutions that work for your child and your family situation.

Remember that you are an equal partner in the working relationship with a practitioner, you know your child best, and you have the parenting role.

Understand the goals of the interventions

It is important to understand why you are undertaking a particular strategy for your child. You should feel empowered to ask questions of the practitioners to ensure that you understand everything clearly as this will give you increased confidence in implementing any strategies. It is also helpful to discuss your home environment with your practitioner to make sure any modifications can be made to suit you and your child's specific needs.

Advocate for your child

Children may be too young to speak up for their rights, needs or interests and in your role as parent or caregiver you can support them by advocating on their behalf, and developing their confidence to do so themselves. Understand and listen to what your child needs are and ensure you are informed of their rights within the system. You know and understand your child better than anyone else. If people are making decisions for and about your child, you can help to make sure these decisions are in your child's best interests.

Involve your family and friends

The involvement of family and friends in your child's early childhood intervention services can support you to meet their goals and aid you as a parent or caregiver. Family members and friends can play an important role in supporting children's early intervention journey through emotional support and guidance.

What parents can do to support children's development

Your health or education professional may provide advice about what you can do at home to help your child's development. It is important to follow their advice. In some instances, a parent may notice that their child is not developing like other children or is unresponsive. While waiting for a professional assessment and advice, it is really very important to do everything you can to support your child's development. Just like food nourishes the body, stimulation nourishes the baby's growing and developing brain.

The more you talk to your child, the more they learn that sounds make words and that words have meaning. It helps them learn language and to talk for themselves.

Some things that help all children develop are to:¹⁰

- Talk with your baby from birth. Look into their eyes, smile and use simple words. Take every opportunity to talk as you do things for them. Tell them what you are doing and what will happen next.
- Listen to their little noises and imitate them. This is how interpersonal communication is supported and how children learn to talk.
- Play little mimicking games, e.g. when they poke their tongue out, you could do it back.
- Share books with babies, toddlers and children for a few minutes each day – it is never too soon to start reading to your child. Introduce your child to characters in picture books through pointing and using different tones of voice. This is a time for closeness, hearing your voice, and learning that books are enjoyable. Children also enjoy songs and rhymes with actions and they love repetition.

Children's development is a journey, not a race. Most children will be happy with who they are if they get messages from you that you love them and are proud of them.

Some babies don't ask for much attention and don't cry very much. Even so, spend lots of time holding, stroking and responding to their little signals. The relationship you have with your child is one of the most important building blocks for development.

Children learn from playing, exploring and trying things out. You could:

- Give your baby a variety of things to look at, touch, shake or hold. Take them outside for a walk. Let them see, feel and hear a variety of different things. Encourage them to run, hop and climb when they can.
- Make sure your child has a variety of things to play with and places to explore - this can be done without expensive toys. Notice what they are interested in and follow their lead.
- Give your child time to try things for themselves, but help them before they become too frustrated.
- Give lots of opportunities to succeed. Even small successes can make your child feel they have some control over their lives and this builds self-esteem.
- Give lots of encouragement for small successes or getting things partly right. Don't wait until they can do the whole task properly.
- Don't always make your child practice what they can't do well. Break tasks into tiny achievable steps and encourage them to practice for a few minutes at a time with plenty of encouragement.
- Let your child be involved in helping you, even if they don't do things well. Everyone needs to feel needed.
- And remember, all children thrive when they are surrounded by an abundance of love.

You as the parent or caregiver are interacting with your child the most. To support positive outcomes from any activities that may be suggested for your child you can:

1. Embed activities in daily life
2. Work as a partner with practitioners
3. Understand the goals of the interventions
4. Advocate for your child
5. Involve your family and friends

Questions to ask my service providers and what I should look for

In searching for a service provider that is the best fit for you and your child, ask a range of questions, how it involves you, your family and your goals. This is an important part of the selection process. Some of the questions you may consider asking are:

Have you worked with children of determination before?

When choosing a service provider, you want to make sure you are working with someone who has experience with your child's condition and age group. There are a range of different services that come under early childhood intervention and practitioners can work with many different ages and developmental challenges. As practitioners tend to specialize in specific areas it is important to understand whether they have the relevant experience.

Do you work as part of a team or collaborate with others?

Collaboration and working together is key for successful early intervention. If your child is receiving services from multiple practitioners, you want someone who is willing to work and collaborate with others. If there is no collaboration, you might see your child learn skills in one setting or domain of development, but unable to transfer them to other settings.

Am I allowed to watch and participate in sessions?

Parents play a huge role in their child's development and should always be encouraged to actively participate in intervention sessions. As a parent, you should look for a service provider who is willing to listen to you, coach you and teach you different strategies to use so that you can carry on working on your child's skills outside of sessions. If a practitioner tells you that you can't observe or participate, that should be a red flag.

What strengths does my child have?

When receiving an assessment, it is easy to only focus on what a child can't do. In reality though what they can do and what their strengths are, are equally as important. Make sure that you and the practitioner can identify things that your child is doing well and how know how to build on them. Knowing your child's strengths is important for identifying appropriate goals and intervention strategies to use with your child.

What areas should you focus on?

Practitioners will help your child develop many different skills that promote independence. The practitioner you interview should give you a variety of ideas in the area in which they specialize, tailored to your child's needs. If they do not do so, they are probably not an experienced professional.

What can I do at home to help our child?

When your child is receiving early childhood intervention services, the work doesn't stop once they leave the session with the practitioner. For your child to make the most progress and for you to see a change in their development, it's important to continue to address their goals at home. Your practitioner should be able to provide you with a program, suggestions and activities that you can do at home during your regular daily routines.

How will we set goals for the child?

After your service provider assesses your child, they should work with you on setting goals for your child. You should look for a practitioner who considers your child's unique strengths, their individual preferences and asks about your goals for your child as a parent. They should use all that information to guide them in selecting targets that are functional and meaningful for your child and can help identify any areas of need.

How will my child's progress be monitored? How will this information be communicated to me?

When setting goals for your child it is important for you to know when and if your child meets these goals. Your practitioner should regularly monitor how your child is doing and should collect data on how they are progressing towards their goals. This information should also be regularly shared with you. Collecting data and monitoring progress allows you to see how your child is learning and identify if the approach being taken is working. This can then help you decide if you should continue what you are doing or if you need to change something.

Is there evidence that this approach is effective for children of determination who have the support requirements as my child?

Since early childhood intervention is such a broad field, that means there are many different approaches to supporting children's development. Not every approach works in every situation, for every age range, or for every child. It is important that you know your practitioner is selecting approaches that have been shown to be effective with other child that have similar needs to yours. This helps to ensure they are making the most of their time with the practitioner. Your practitioner should be able to give you an idea or summary of what the research and evidence-based practices on their particular approach shows.



3



HOW DO I FIND THE RIGHT SERVICES FOR MY CHILD IN ABU DHABI?

What does the journey look like for my child?

Understanding and navigating assessment diagnosis, therapy and intervention services can be complex. However through receiving the appropriate service your child can benefit significantly. The experience of your family will differ from many others depending on your child's diagnosis and support needs. The typical early childhood intervention journey includes assessment, diagnosis, and early intervention. The information below can help you to understand the journey:

Assessment & Diagnosis

Structure evaluation of a child's development, usually done by a trained specialist



If your child is not meeting expected developmental milestones your primary health care practitioner or pediatrician will refer you to an appropriate specialist

1

2



Detailed assessment is conducted, diagnosis and intervention plans are formulated and communicated to you and your family.

Early Intervention

Services and supports that are available to Children of Determination and their families

4



A care plan is developed in consultation with your service provider and tailored based on desired outcomes and needs

3



Your primary health care practitioner will support you by providing guiding information, resources and available services

5



Your family is provided with educational resources and recommended to attend counselling sessions and support groups as required

6



The ongoing support of your child can be regularly reviewed and updated based on development needs. Any changes to be made are to be done through discussion and agreement with your service provider

7



You and your family are continuously supported and receive guidance on inclusive education systems and other applicable services

How do I find the right services for my child?

With the variety of services offered within Abu Dhabi the services identified have been grouped into available service offerings. Explore these groups further to understand the specific services they can offer to you and your family.

Category	Explanation	Page
Specialist centers for assessment and diagnosis	An organization that conducts validated assessment and diagnosis for people of determination/children of determination.	27
Early Intervention Services and Practitioners	Services providing therapy, case management, and support for your child. Practitioners can outline strategies and guidance for treatment, establish development goals and monitor ongoing progress.	29
Parent and Community Support Offers (Public & Not-for-Profit entities)	Organizations that assist families in many aspects of everyday life and offer a social and emotional support network, and guidance in navigating the system.	37
Specific Developmental Delay or Disability Organization	Advocacy, awareness, therapy, and support organizations related to serving people of determination with a specific developmental delay or disability.	39
Support Services	Early intervention practitioners play a key role in connecting children and their families with other social service providers. Several other general services related to the system are also typically offered, this can include education support, home based care and transport support.	40
Al Ain Services	Services located in Al Ain	45
Al Dhafra Services	Services located in Al Dhafra	46
Relevant Administrative and Government Agencies	Administrative and government agencies that support access and navigation of the system. Agencies that manage financial, legal, and administrative aspects of the system.	47

What do I need to know about insurance coverage in Abu Dhabi?

Many families have questions about insurance coverage, reimbursements and managing the costs of early intervention programs and therapies. The processes for each of these can vary significantly.

As an immediate step you could directly contact your health insurance provider for further information.

Speaking with your health insurance provider can help you to understand what services are covered under your current plan and the extent of benefits available to your child.

In addition, some service providers may also be able to extend support on how to best engage with your insurance provider if they have past experiences with insurance claims.

Many families have questions about insurance coverage, reimbursements and managing the costs of early intervention programs and therapies.

Some of the key questions you may be interested to learn more about are:

1. How does my insurance coverage for Early Intervention related therapies and treatments work in general?
2. What are the eligibility requirements to receive treatments covered by my insurance?
3. Are there any age limits or requirements that need to be fulfilled?
4. What is the process for claiming reimbursements (if applicable)?
5. Where can you seek further assistance and technical advice on insurance coverage related questions?



4



HOW DO I GET ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE?

Where can I find additional support and help?

There are many ways to get support when you are raising a child with a developmental delay or disability. This can be confusing but focus on your child's and your family's specific needs and on making the choices that you feel are best suited to your situation. Asking questions of your service providers, support networks and other parents can help you filter information to help you make your choices.



Accessing assistance from services such as community support partners, and mental health and wellbeing support can act as key sources of information and help you navigate the caregiving journey effectively. Several of these services are offered within Abu Dhabi and are detailed below:

Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination (ZHO) Support Offers

-  02 305 6666
-  info@zho.gov.ae
-  Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashed Rd - Shakhbout City - Al Mafrqa - Abu Dhabi

With centers and clubs for People of Determination across Abu Dhabi, ZHO provides a range of integrated services that aim at rehabilitating disabled people for inclusion into the community. These services include training and education, vocational and therapeutic rehabilitation (assessment, early intervention, physiotherapy, functional therapy, speech therapy, and vocational training workshops), psychological care, family counseling, as well as supporting educational and sport activities.

 Language support: Arabic, English



Scan the QR code

Abu Dhabi Public Health Support hotline

-  800 1717 or 080 01717

The Istijaba call center, which is associated with DoH's Medical Operations Command Center, provides its services 24/7 in Arabic and English through the toll-free number 800 1717 or +971 800 1717 when calling from outside the UAE. The call center responds to inquiries related to all mental health support services.

 Language support: Arabic, English

Scan the QR code



Special Olympics UAE

-  02 810 7914
-  info@specialolympics.ae
-  Khalifa City - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates




The Special Olympics World Games 2019 was hosted in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in March 2019 for the first time in the Middle East North Africa region since the movement's founding over 50 years ago. Special Olympics is the world's largest humanitarian sporting event and a global movement which focuses on the empowerment of People of Determination with intellectual disabilities through the power of sport.

 Language support: Arabic, English

Scan the QR code



SEDRA Foundation

-  02 666 0522
Whatsapp: 056 116 3109
-  info@sedra.org
-  Khalifa City A - P.O. Box 147107, Abu Dhabi, UAE

SEDRA Foundation is an independent partner for People of Determination and the community. They support families and professionals at each step of their journey and in all areas of life. For all age groups, they offer guidance, support groups, a broad variety of workshops, courses and programs. The work of their multi-disciplinary team is person-centered, culturally competent, community-based, and inclusive.

 Language support: Arabic, English, Hindi, Urdu

Scan the QR code



Caregiver support

Being a caregiver can at times be stressful and emotionally taxing, but there are several support resources that can help you and your family along this journey. There are many aspects to caregiving for your child including understanding your child's condition, seeking services and planning for their care. Importantly, caregiving also extends to providing care to yourself. The better you care for yourself, the better you can care for your child. Using a mixture of formal and informal assistance can help make things a little easier.

Family and friends

Your family and friends are important sources of mental and emotional support. They are the people joining you on this journey. By accessing help and input from your family and friends you may not feel isolated in raising your child.

Caregiver network

Developing a network of other caregivers can help you to gain insights into others' experiences and knowledge. This can be done through tapping into existing networks or parent support groups. Through talking to other caregivers, you can receive personal and tried and tested advice on some of the challenges and concerns faced by caregivers.

Service Providers

Access help and guidance through your service provider or primary healthcare practitioner as they are an indispensable partner in your care journey. Discussing with them your concerns and any support you personally may require can also act to aid your psychological health and wellbeing.

Several of the service providers outlined in this guide do offer parent and caregiver education and support programs, please reach out to them or your relevant service provider for more details.



Parents' platform of the Early Childhood Authority

Parents' Platform presents curated content and resources that promote a supportive environment for the development and well-being of young children, while offering parents and caregivers opportunities to engage, interact and contribute within their communities and through this platform.



Language support: Arabic, English

Scan the QR code



Mental Health Support Line



800 4673

Aiming to elevate mental health in the community, the support line is there to provide mental support to individuals by a group of trained volunteers, including leading psychologists and mental health professionals.

The Mental Support Line is a dedicated service to provide basic mental support and is an initiative by the National Program for Health and Wellbeing.



Language support: Arabic, English

Scan the QR code



Early Intervention, Developmental Delay and Disability – Further Information

For further information on specific developmental delays or disabilities, or general guidance on the early intervention system view the resources below:



UAE Genetic Diseases Association (UAE GDA)

UAE GDA aims to reduce the genetic disease burden on the UAE population through effective prevention programs, and all its return over and above operating expenses is devoted purely to scientific activities and research.

Scan the QR code



Emirates Autism Center



info@emiratesautism.ae

Emirates Autism Center is a private center specialized in the field of autism, based in the capital of UAE, Abu Dhabi. The center is specialized in autism spectrum disorders and its doors are open throughout the entire year with state-of-the-art classrooms specifically designed to meet the sensory and environmental needs of its students.

Scan the QR code



Emirates Down Syndrome Association



edsa@edsa.ae

Emirates Down Syndrome Association is a Humanitarian Public Benefit Association accredited by the Ministry of Community Development in 2006 to serve people with Down Syndrome from birth, and for all ages and nationalities.

Scan the QR code



Emirates Speech Language Pathology Society



general-secretary@eslps.org

The Emirates Speech Language Pathology Society's vision is to advance and represent the interest of the SLP & their clients, in addition to increase awareness about the SLP profession and improve the quality of SLP services in UAE. ESLPS purpose is to perform important functions for the community, including research, education and advocacy, and to set standards for excellence in the speech language pathology profession.

Scan the QR code



Center for Disease Control – Learn the Signs. Act Early

CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program aims to improve early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities so children and families can get the services and support they need.

Scan the QR code





Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI)

MCRI is the largest child health research institute in Australia with a key focus across five areas: Infection and Immunity, Cell Biology, Clinical Sciences, Genetics, and Population Health. Research from MCRI supports their commitment to achieving the best possible health, development and wellbeing outcomes for children, families, and communities, through an agenda that focuses on promotion and prevention.

Scan the QR code



Frank Porter Graham (FPG) Child Development Institute

The FPG is one of the US's oldest and largest multidisciplinary centers devoted to the study of children and families. Their work and research span many disciplines from education and psychology to social work and public health. FPG has specific information on Child Health and Development and Early Intervention and special education among a number of other topics relevant to the system.

Scan the QR code



How do I apply for a Person of Determination (PoD) Card?

The Person of Determination (PoD) Card is issued by the Ministry of Community Development. For holders of the PoD Card, a package of services and privileges is provided by multiple parties, with the aim of improving the future quality of life and enhancing the well-being of individuals.

The PoD Card is an official document indicating that the holder is a person of determination and is entitled to the rights and services established in the Federal Persons with Disabilities Law No. 29 of 2006 and the regulations and decisions issued in its implementation.

Benefits of the card include support for insurance from the Ministry of Health, priority housing support for UAE nationals, exemption from fees related to identification, discounts across certain public services and a parking card for children with specific impairments.

For full list of benefits of a PoD card see [here](#)

Apply for the PoD card through the following process:

1. Submit the application via website here with the required documentation, including -
 - Passport copy (EM ID and Family Book for UAE Nationals)
 - Copy of ID and valid residency for residents of 6 months and over
 - Medical and psychological report from an official accredited authority
 - Personal photo with white background
2. The department will process the request and validate the information provided and a diagnostic committee will verify any medical reports
3. Receive notification regarding the approval or rejection of the application
4. If your application is rejected, consult with an established Community Support Partner.

For full list of benefits of a PoD card
Scan the QR code



To submit the application via website
Scan the QR code



Service conditions and requirements are as follows:

- Must be a UAE citizen or resident of the UAE.
- Diagnosed by an official medical or psychological authority and approved by the Department of Care and Rehabilitation of People of Determination.
- The existence of medical or psychological reports proving the existence of the disability in terms of its type and severity, and the tools or assistive devices to be used.
- The applicant's disability should be of the following categories: mental, auditory, visual, physical, autistic, multiple.

More information about the Aounak Card

The Aounak insurance is a health insurance card for non-nationals or their children of determination living in Abu Dhabi. The service is provided in government hospitals and clinics (SEHA – Abu Dhabi health services company) in Abu Dhabi only. Holders of the Aounak card are eligible for treatment and care, without incurring any additional fees. The cards cover in-patient and out-patient care in hospitals, clinics and emergency centers.

Coverage also includes the cost of equipment and medical devices, nutritional therapy, physiotherapy, medication, psychological treatment in outpatient clinics, as well as screening for early detection of disease.

Through this service, non-nationals who are people of determination and are residents of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi can request an assessment of eligibility to obtain the AOUNAK Health Card and they can appeal the decision of the Medical Committee, which is done by submitting a petition via the electronic system.

Apply for the Aounak Card through the following process:

1. Access online application through the TAMM website here.
2. Submit the application along with the required documentation, including:
 - i. Emirates ID of sponsor and Person of Determination
 - ii. Residents Visa of sponsor and of Person of Determination
 - iii. Passport page of sponsor and Person of Determination
 - iv. Person of Determination card- issued by Ministry of Community Development
3. Receive notification regarding the approval or denial of application
4. Submit appeal requests (if required) through the online portal

Scan the QR code to visit the TAMM website





How do I plan my child's nursery or school transition?

Your child's schooling takes careful planning and consideration, particularly for a child of determination. Starting school is an important step for all children and ensuring that the nursery or school you select offers the appropriate support that best suits your child is key.

Determining your child's needs and in what settings they would learn best is central to helping you decide which educational pathway would suit your family. Best practice shows that, if possible, having your child enrolled in an inclusive classroom can be the best learning environment for them. In making this determination it may be helpful to consider some of the following questions:

- Can my child be provided with the structure, routine and small group instruction within an inclusive classroom?
- How will my child be able to access regular curriculum and instruction if some modifications and accommodations were made?
- Should I anticipate that my child will face some

challenges in their academic achievements in an inclusive classroom? The support of an assistant teacher or access to instruction in a separate room?

- Is my child performing close to peers in their functional skills and self-care tasks, or should I anticipate that they will need support and training in this aspect?
- What adaptations would make me feel that my child's behavioural and emotional needs are being fulfilled effectively?⁹

To support your decision-making process and to answer some of the above questions consider:

- Contacting any current service provider to gain advice, asking for a professional's input into what schooling options they recommend for your child as they understand your specific situation
- Reaching out to peer and community groups to offer insight and perspectives into the lived experience of accessing certain education options
- Visiting schooling options and seeing for yourself the environment in which your child would be learning. Ask teachers and principals about how they can support your child and if they have examples of how they have previously supported students that may have similar experiences or needs to your child. Visiting a few schools that have been recommended can help support your decision-making process.

Once your child has entered the selected education pathway, continue to assess whether their needs are being met and your comfort with the support provided. Remember your child's educational placement is not set in stone and can be changed. More information and guidance is available on the Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority **Parents' platform**

Scan the QR code to visit the Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority Parent platform



5

DIRECTORY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION SERVICES

Please note that the organizations and service providers listed here are for informational purposes only, the list does not contain any recommendations or endorsements of specific service providers.






Inclusive Education:

Inclusive education means a child of determination is educated in regular education classrooms with peers in their age range, with necessary supports. The aim of inclusion is to achieve the principle of equal educational opportunities for all students.




This directory covers a broad range of organizations and service providers with various levels of service availability

Category	Explanation	Page
Specialist centers for assessment and diagnosis	An organization that conducts validated assessment and diagnosis for people of determination/children of determination.	27
Early Intervention Service Providers and Therapists	Services providing therapy, case management, and support for your child. Therapists can outline strategies and guidance for treatment, establish development goals and monitor progress ongoing.	29
Parent and Community Support Offers (Public & Not-for-Profit entities)	Organizations that assist families in many aspects of everyday life and offer a social and emotional support network, and guidance in navigating the system.	37
Specific Developmental Delay or Disability Organization	Advocacy, awareness, therapy, and support organizations related to serving people of determination with a specific developmental delay or disability.	39
Support Services	Early intervention specialists play a key role in connecting children and their families with other social service providers. Several other general services related to the system are also typically offered, this can include education support, home based care and transport support.	40
Al Ain Services	Services located in Al Ain	45
Al Dhafra Services	Services located in Al Dhafra	46
Relevant Administrative and Government Agencies	Administrative and government agencies that support access and navigation of the system. Agencies that manage financial, legal, and administrative aspects of the system.	47





Specialist centers for assessment and diagnosis

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC)	Assessment and diagnosis	Scan the QR code 	02 819 0000	skmcontact@seha.ae_	Karama Street, Al Tibbiya, Abu Dhabi City - P.O. Box 51900
Corniche Hospital – SEHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostic tools to assess the function of the developing nervous system in premature and full-term babies starting from 26 weeks of gestation till one year Use of non-invasive and noninvasive tools suitable for babies Neonatal Neurodevelopmental Physiotherapy services for preterm babies (less than 32 weeks) and high-risk term babies during their inpatient stay, and as outpatient Individualized and tailored program for each baby according to his/her needs Hands on training to the parents and caregivers to apply the program at home after discharge 	Scan the QR code 	02 811 7777 800 50	CornicheCEOoffice@seha.ae/ CornicheContact@seha.ae	Corniche Road East, Salam Street, Near Sheraton Hotels & Resort Abu Dhabi
Danat Al Emarat	Assessment and diagnosis	Scan the QR code 	02 614 9999	info@danatalema-rat.ae	Al Khaleej Al Arabi Street (30th street) Al Tabbiyah, Plot No. 24, Villa 1 Area W 18-03 - Abu Dhabi

Specialist centers for assessment and diagnosis

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Mayo Clinic	Assessment and diagnosis	Scan the QR code 	02 314 4444	InternationalCollaborate@mayo.edu	Ghweifat International Highway Next to Mafraq Hospital, Al Mafraq area - Abu Dhabi
kidsFIRST Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy support (for learning difficulties cases) Applied Behavior analysis Psychological services Speech and language therapy Occupational therapy (Fine and gross motor skills support) Comprehensive assessments Home programs Parent support group Physiotherapy 	Scan the QR code 	02 555 1437	abudhabi@kidsfirstmc.com	kidsFIRST Medical Center Villa 135, Al Fursan Street Khalifa City A Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi
Priory Wellbeing Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychiatry Psychology Counselling Occupational therapy Speech and language therapy 	Scan the QR code 	02 651 8111	abudhabienquiries@priorygroup.ae	King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Street Al Bateen Abu Dhabi

Early Intervention Services and Practitioners

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
ZHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment for Full Assessment and Diagnosis Request Psychological and Social Counselling Request a Visit to the ZHO for People of Determination Request Sports Club Membership for People of Determination ZHO Centers providing healthcare and early intervention therapies 	Scan the QR code 	02 305 6666	info@zho.gov.ae	Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashed Rd - Shakhbout City - Al Mafraq - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Abu Dhabi Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical therapy Occupational Therapy Speech therapy Psychiatry Social and educational care Vocational training 	Scan the QR code 	02 305 6116	abudhabi.center@zho.gov.ae	91, Al Ri'ayah St, Shakhbout City, Abu Dhabi 23647
Danat Al Emarat hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech language therapy Ophthalmology Mental health Child development Physiotherapy Occupational therapy 	Scan the QR code 	02 614 9999	info@danatalemarat.ae	Abu Dhabi Gate City, Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Amana Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation Home services Speech and Language Therapists Occupational Therapists Physiotherapists 	Scan the QR code 	800 262 6242	info@amanahealthcare.com	Plot No. 11-12, SE 44 Khalifa City A - Abu Dhabi




Early Intervention Services and Practitioners



Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
kidsFIRST Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy support (for learning difficulties cases) Applied Behavior analysis Psychological services Speech and language therapy Occupational therapy (Fine and gross motor skills support) Comprehensive assessments Home programs Parent support group Physiotherapy 	Scan the QR code 	02 555 1437	abudhabi@kidsfirstmc.com	kidsFIRST Medical Center Villa 135, Al Fursan Street Khalifa City A Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi
Applied Behaviour Training Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Training Intensive Applied Behavior Analysis Adaptive Skill Intensive Applied Behavior Analysis Discrete Trial Training Pivotal Response Training Adaptive Skills Training Play-based Intervention Social Skills Training Psychotherapy Psycho-educational Assessments Functional Behavior Assessments Behavioral Respite Services. 	Scan the QR code 	06 387 9336	info@abtinstitute.org	Not Available
Ability Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Parent support Early intervention Therapy Speech and language therapy 	Scan the QR code 	02 309 2900	abilitycenter_1@yahoo.com	Hazza ' Bin Zayed The First St - Zone 1 - E18-01 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

Early Intervention Services and Practitioners



Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Future Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special education Speech and language therapy Occupational Therapy Physical Therapy Individualized Treatment Plan Sensory Integration Program Group Activities Light Sensory Room Psychology/ Counseling, Multidisciplinary assessment Awareness campaigns 	Scan the QR code 	02 553 3506	frc@futurecn.ae	Building No. 142, Plot 16, Zone 9, Behind Civil Defense, Near to Mazyad Mall, Mohammed Bin Zayed City, Abu Dhabi
Mohammed bin Rashid center for special education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied Behavior analysis Center based preschool and day school School integration programs 	Scan the QR code 	02 691 8888	info@neccuae.org	Zone 23, Building 31, PO Box 112923 Mohamed Bin Zayed City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Al Ain Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment and Diagnosis Program Early intervention program Special education program Medical care program Paramedical rehabilitation program Vocational Rehabilitation Program Integration program Human Resources Development Program 	Scan the QR code 	03 783 2222	info@alain-center.com	Al Ain Center Al Foah, near Al Foah Garden, Al-Ain Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates





Early Intervention Services and Practitioners

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Maudsley Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autism spectrum disorders Learning difficulties Pediatricians Schools and school counsellors Social workers Psychologists Clinicians from allied health professions such as speech and language therapists and occupational therapists. Counselling and support for ADHD, Mood disorders, anxiety and stress related disorders, eating disorders, Conduct disorders, personality disorders 	Scan the QR code 	02 610 7777	enquiries@maudsleyhealth.com	201-205, Al Montazah Tower, 2nd Floor - Zayed The First St - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
NMC Royal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physiotherapy Psychology Pediatric Child guidance Family medicine 	Scan the QR code 	02 203 5000	info@provita-me.com	16th St - Khalifa City - SE-4 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
American Center for Psychiatry and Neurology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychiatry Neurology Rehabilitation Psychology Children's neuroscience services Pharmacy Telehealth Specialized treatment programs 	Scan the QR code 	02 697 9999	info@americancenteruae.com	Villa No. 533 Intersection Hazza Bin Zayed (11th) Street and Mubarak Bin Mohammed (26th St after Moroccan and Japanese Embassies - Abu Dhabi




Early Intervention Services and Practitioners

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Mediclinic Al Ain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Medicine and GP Services Ophthalmology Orthopedics Pediatrics Physiotherapy Psychiatry 	Scan the QR code 	800 2000	alainhospital@mediclinic.ae	Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed St - Central District - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Star Center for Special Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychology Occupational therapy assessment Applied behavior analysis Speech and language Special education Focused therapy programs School visits and support 	Scan the QR code 	02 446 2048	admin@starzuae.com	P O Box : 127322, Villa # 25, Al Sadha Street Muroor Road, Abu Dhabi
Specialized Rehabilitation Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pediatric rehabilitation Occupational therapy Physiotherapy Speech therapy Sensory room 	Scan the QR code 	Not Available	info.srh@capital-health.ae	Old Airport Road, Opposite DOH Abu Dhabi, UAE.
Al Hanan Rehabilitation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensory room Occupational therapy Speech and language unit Learning unit 	Scan the QR code 	02 583 2138 055 912 9110	info@hanandcad.com	Abu Dhabi, Shakhbout City (formerly Khalifa B), opposite Virginia Schools

Early Intervention Services and Practitioners

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Bedaya Rehabilitation and Training Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech therapy Physical therapy Occupational therapy Writing training 	Scan the QR code 	03 751 0337	info@bedaya rehabilitation.com	Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Awwal St - Al Jimi - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Jadara Center for Rehabilitation People of Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special education Rehabilitation Speech therapy Behavior therapy Physical therapy Diagnosis and assessment 	Not Available	03 754 8333	jadaracenter@hotmail.com	48 Al Rawdah Al Sharqiyah St - Al Rawdah Al Sharqiyah - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Al Shrooq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation Pediatric care Physiotherapy 	Scan the QR code 	800 747 667	care@alshrooq.ae	Standard Chartered Bank Building - Flat No. 103, 137 th Street - Zayed Bin Sultan St - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
The Modern International Center for Speech	Speech and Language therapy	Scan the QR code 	03 766 1114 050 663 7813	Not Available	Al Diwan Building, 10, Jamal Abdul Naser Street, 1 Floor, Office 103 Al Majaz 2, Al Majaz Sharjah, Sharjah United Arab Emirates
Challenge Training & Rehabilitation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special education Speech disorders treatment Behavior therapy Assessment and diagnosis Early intervention therapy 	Scan the QR code 	054 440 5857	info@alhtahadi.com	8 Al Maqasid St - Al Jimi - Al Ameriya - Abu Dhabi







Early Intervention Services and Practitioners

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Dots and Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Intervention Therapy Brain and cognitive development training 	Scan the QR code 	02 666 0948	info@dotsandlinks.ae	Office 801, Al Fara's Group Building Al Mamoura St (Behind Muroor Road), Al Nahyan,
Al Sadara Disabled Care and Rehabilitation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early intervention Therapy Education programs 	Not Available	03 737 4800	elsadara@hotmail.com	UAE AL AIN, FALAJ HAZZA ST NO. 21 BUILDING 28
Wonderful minds rehabilitation and training center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment and diagnosis Behavioural modification Occupational therapy Special education consultation Speech and language therapy 	Scan the QR code 	054 447 5510	info@wonderfulminds.ae	Villa 82, Al Mujaljal Street, Karama Area, Abu Dhabi Near Embassy of Nepal - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Al Najah Rehabilitation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation Home care Transportation services Occupational therapy Speech therapy 	Not available	052 729 9982	info@nprcuae.com	Villa No:13 opposite sadara School, Al Sidrah, Al Khabisi District - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Son Rise Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational therapy Special education Applied behavior therapy Speech and language therapy Integration therapy Psychologist Rehabilitation center 	Scan the QR code 	02 582 7060	info@sonriseuae.com	Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed St - Zone 1 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates


Early Intervention Services and Practitioners

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Concora Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation and wellbeing Education and Training Family Support program 	Scan the QR code 	Not Available	contact@concoracare.ae	Villa 1, Al Saada Street, Mushrif, Abu Dhabi
Irtiqaa Human Development Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and training services Early intervention services Assessment and diagnosis 	Scan the QR code 	02 553 4344 050 800 2042	info@irtiqaa.ae	Not Available

Parent and Community Support Offers (Public & Not-for-Profit entities)

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family support Health and Nutrition Early care and education Child Protection 	Scan the QR code 	02 499 9499	info@eca.gov.ae	B Building - Office #4, Al Mamoura - 45 Ahl Al 'Azam St - Al Nahyan - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Abu Dhabi Sports club for People of Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports club supporting physical, social and cultural skills Sporting events 	Scan the QR code 	02 305 6687 02 305 6683	abudhabi.club@zho.gov.ae	91, Al Ri'ayah St, Shakhbout City, Abu Dhabi 23647
SEDRA Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General guidance Family and Parent Support Groups Training and Workshops Social activities and programs 	Scan the QR code 	02 666 0522	info@sedra.org	Khalifa City A - P.O. Box 147107, Abu Dhabi, UAE
ZHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZHO has training programs for families (Taaluf and Jousour al Amal) – please refer to Iman altamimi for all the information ZHO and FDF launched a counseling service called Hemam 	Scan the QR code 	02 305 6666	info@zho.gov.ae	Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashed Rd - Shakhbout City - Al Mafrq - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Department of Culture and Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask a Librarian Get Library Membership Library Tour Library Branches 	Scan the QR code 	02 444 444	info@dctabudhabi.ae	Nation Towers Corniche, Building B PO Box 94000
Special Olympics Abu Dhabi	Advocacy and awareness	Scan the QR code 	02 810 7914	info@specialolympics.ae	Khalifa City - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

Parent and Community Support Offers (Public & Not-for-Profit entities)

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Family Development foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for a Play Therapy Consultation Social Welfare Application Effective Parenting Skills Integrated Family Social Welfare Childhood and Youth Development Family Education and Awareness 	Scan the QR code 	800 33322 02 409 0111	info@fdf.gov.ae	Family Development Foundation, Al Mushrif - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

Specific Developmental Delay or Disability Organization

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Abu Dhabi Autism Center	Specialized services for PoD with Autism	Scan the QR code 	02 305 6414	abudhabi.center@zho.gov.ae	8, Al Ra-i' St, Al Sa'adah, Abu Dhabi 22403
Hope Gate Center for Autism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and family support Education 	Not Available	02 642 5921	hopegatecenter@gmail.com	Zone 1 - E18-02 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Emirates Autism society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting lectures and training workshops and continuous dialogue sessions for all those interested in autism. Cooperating with the authorities and departments that provide educational and recreational programs during school vacations to occupy their spare time 	Not Available	056 654 0592	info@uaeautism.ae	Khalifa City - Sector 13 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Zahret Al Lotus Autism Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childcare Education Community Center Advocacy and awareness 	Not Available	02 557 801	zalotus2017@gmail.com	3 Al Basmi St, Khalifa City - SE-41 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates






Support Services



Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Finder Mawhibaty Talent Development Program Child Protection Against Abuse or Neglect 	Scan the QR code 	02 615 000	info@adek.gov.ae	Abu Dhabi, Ministries complex - Behind Khalifa Park
Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes Insurance Providers Find a Doctor Find a Health Facility Request for Eligibility or assessment for AOUNAK Health Card Request for Medical Reports from Hospitals Outside the Country 	Scan the QR code 	02 449 3333	https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/contact-us	Building 35 Kanadel Street, Al Rawda - Abu Dhabi - Postal code 20224
ZHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint Meeting for Full Assessment and Diagnosis Request Psychological and Social Counselling Request a Visit to the ZHO for People of Determination Request Sports Club Membership for People of Determination ZHO Centers providing healthcare and early intervention therapies 	Scan the QR code 	02 305 6666	info@zho.gov.ae	Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashed Rd - Shakhbout City - Al Mafraq - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
TAMM (Abu Dhabi Digital Authority)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes and Initiatives for People of Determination The National Library 	Scan the QR code 	800 555	https://www.tamm.abudhabi/en/contact/email-us	International Tower - Al Karamah St - Al Rawdah - Capital Centre - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

Support Services



Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Abu Dhabi Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical therapy Occupational Therapy Speech therapy Psychiatry Social and educational care Vocational training 	Scan the QR code 	02 305 6116	abudhabi.center@zho.gov.ae	91, Al Ri'ayah St, Shakhbout City, Abu Dhabi 23647
Mohammed bin Rashid center for special education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied Behavior analysis Center based preschool and day school School integration programs Early years program for children with autism (Ages 24 - 48 months-enrollment slots available) 	Scan the QR code 	02 691 8888	info@neccuae.org	Zone 23, Building 31, PO Box 112923 Mohamed Bin Zayed City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Family Development Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Parenting Skills Integrated Family Social Welfare Childhood and Youth Development Family Education and Awareness 	Scan the QR code 	02 409 0111	info@fdf.gov.ae	Family Development Foundation, Al Mushrif - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
SEDRA Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General guidance Family and Parent Support Groups Training and Workshops Social activities and programs 	Scan the QR code 	02 666 0522	info@sedra.org	Khalifa City A - P.O. Box 147107, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Al Karamah School	Education/school for children with autism and learning difficulties	Scan the QR code 	02 412 1999	info@alkaramahschool.ae	Al Karamah St - Al Manhal - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates



Support Services







Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Braille Printing Press	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational materials for blind students Awareness and advocacy Training and education programs 	Scan the QR code 	02 305 6680	info@zho.gov.ae	91, Al Ri'ayah St, Shakhbout City, Abu Dhabi 23647
Inclusion services	Inclusive transport	Scan the QR code 	050 182 8299	info@inclusionservices.ae	Corniche Road, Dar Al Salam Building, 12th Floor P.O.Box 5100006, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Amana Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation Home services Speech and Language Therapists Occupational Therapists Physiotherapists 	Scan the QR code 	800 262 6242	info@amanahealthcare.com	Plot No. 11-12, SE 44 Khalifa City A - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
The Butterfly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support groups for families with children of determination Advocacy 	Scan the QR code 	052 412 7248	info@thebutterfly.ae	Incubator & Accelerator Area, Social Contribution Authority Floor 12, Al Khatem Tower, Adgm Square, Al Maryah Island, Abu Dhabi,
Special Olympics UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and awareness Sports training and activities for families 	Scan the QR code 	02 810 7914	info@specialolympics.ae	Khalifa City - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Abilities Development Center for People of Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Disability services 	Not Available	02 491 3230	adcsn2007@gmail.com	Villa No. 180, Zone- 27 - Mohamed Bin Zayed City - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

Support Services



Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family support Health and Nutrition Early care and education Child Protection 	Scan the QR code 	02 499 9499	info@eca.gov.ae	B Building - Office #4, Al Mamoura - 45 Ahl Al 'Azam St - Al Nahyan - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Ability Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Parent support Early intervention Therapy Speech and language therapy 	Scan the QR code 	02 309 2900	abilitycenter_1@yahoo.com	Hazza ' Bin Zayed The First St - Zone 1 - E18-01 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Al Sadara Disabled Care and Rehabilitation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early intervention Therapy Education programs 	Not available	055 333 2299	elsadara@hotmail.com	UAE AL AIN, FALAJ HAZZA ST NO. 21 BUILDING 28
Challenge Training & Rehabilitation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special education Speech disorders treatment Behavior therapy Assessment and diagnosis Early intervention therapy 	Scan the QR code 	054 440 5857	info@altahadi.com	8 Al Maqasid St - Al Jimi - Al Ameriya - Abu Dhabi
Future Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special education Speech and language therapy Occupational Therapy Physical Therapy Individualized Treatment Plan Sensory Integration Program Group Activities Light Sensory Room Psychology/ Counseling, Multidisciplinary assessment Awareness campaigns 	Scan the QR code 	02 553 3506	frc@futurecn.ae	Building No. 142, Plot 16, Zone 9, Behind Civil Defense, Near to Mazyad Mall, Mohammed Bin Zayed City, Abu Dhabi

Support Services

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Wonderful minds rehabilitation and training center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment and evaluation Behavioural modification Occupational therapy Special education consultation Speech and language therapy 	Scan the QR code 	054 447 5510	info@wonderfulminds.ae	Villa 82, Al Mujaljal Street, Karama Area, Abu Dhabi Near Embassy of Nepal - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Al Najah Rehabilitation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation Home care Transportation services Occupational therapy Speech therapy 	Not available	052 729 9982	info@nprcuae.com	Villa No:13 opposite sadara School, Al Sidrah, Al Khabisi District - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Son Rise Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational therapy Special education Applied behavior therapy Speech and language therapy Integration therapy Psychologist Rehabilitation center 	Scan the QR code 	02 582 7060	info@sonriseuae.com	Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed St - Zone 1 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Concora Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation and wellbeing Education and Training Family Support program 	Scan the QR code 	Not available	contact@concoracare.ae	Villa 1, Al Saada Street, Mushrif, Abu Dhabi
Priory Wellbeing Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental assessment Cognitive assessment Comprehensive assessment Family support 	Scan the QR code 	02 651 8111	abudhabienquiries@priorygroup.ae	King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Street Al Bateen Abu Dhabi


Al Ain Services

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Al Ain Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment and Diagnosis Program Early intervention program Special education program Medical care program Paramedical rehabilitation program Vocational Rehabilitation Program Integration program Human Resources Development Program 	Scan the QR code 	03 783 2222	info@alain-center.com	Al Ain Center Al Foah, near Al Foah Garden, Al-Ain Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates
Al Qoa Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Awareness and advocacy 	Not available	Not available	ALQOA.Center@zho.gov.ae	Al Qou'a - Al-Shabiya - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Al Ain Sports club for People of Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports and recreation Psychiatry Social support 	Scan the QR code 	03 716 7777	alaindis@zho.gov.ae	11, Al Diya St, Falaj Hazza', Al Ain 30079
Al Wagan Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic education cooperative learning Autism specific services Early intervention Vocational training Therapeutic care Transportation assistance 	Not available	Not available	ALWaganRehab@zho.gov.ae	Al Waqan Zayed Center, Al Wiqan - Abu Dhabi
Al Ain Autism Center	Care programs dedicated to people with autism	Not available	03 716 7886	Not Available	Al Ain - Zakher


Al Dhafra Services

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Madinat Zayed Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Academic and cooperative learning Autism comprehensive care Early intervention services Psychological counselling Family counselling 	Not Available	Not Available	MadinatZayedRehab@zho.gov.ae	102, Al Bayda-a St, Zayed City, Al Dhafra Region 10049
Ghaiathy Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical therapy Occupational therapy Speech therapy Psychological Educational support Autism care Early intervention services 	Not Available	Not Available	ghaiathy.Center@zho.gov.ae	21, Al Baradi St, Ghiyathi, Al Dhafra Region 10868
Al Sila Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intellectual development Vocational training Early Intervention services Agricultural training Physical therapy Psychological counselling Education support Awareness and advocacy services 	Not Available	02 305 6364 02 305 6368 02 305 6361	alsila.Center@zho.gov.ae	43, Al Manbi'i St, Al Sila', Al Dhafra Region 12217
Delma Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intellectual development Vocational training Early intervention Agricultural training Physical therapy Psychological training 	Not Available	02 305 6383	Delma.Center@zho.gov.ae	11, Al Riwayah St, Delma, Al Dhafra Region 13604
Al Murfa Center for Care and Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational services Vocational training Physical therapy Psycho-social counselling 	Not Available	02 305 6344	almarfa@zho.gov.ae	5, Arzanah St, Al Marfa, Al Dhafra Region 10810

Relevant Administrative and Government Agencies

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
ZHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint Meeting for Full Assessment and Diagnosis Request Psychological and Social Counselling Request a Visit to the ZHO for People of Determination Request Sports Club Membership for People of Determination ZHO Centers providing healthcare and early intervention therapies 	Scan the QR code 	02 305 6666	info@zho.gov.ae	Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashed Rd - Shakhbout City - Al Mafraq - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Abu Dhabi Judicial Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Guidance Child Visitation Request Family Guidance Counselling 	Scan the QR code 	02 651 2222	info@adjd.gov.ae	16, Al Nawfal St, Al Rawdah, Abu Dhabi 20224 PO Box 84 United Arab Emirates
Social Support Authority	Request for Social Support	Scan the QR code 	800 55	contact@tamm.abudhabi	152 Al Mudehel Al Muntazah Abu Dhabi, 2240
Dar Zayed for Family Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Foster Request Family Counseling Request Request for "To whom it may concern" Certificate (Foster Family) 	Scan the QR code 	03 716 0000	info@dzfc.ae	Dar Zayed for Family Care Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, United Arabic Emirates, P O Box: 86444
Department of Community Development	Abu Dhabi Social Support Programme	Scan the QR code 	02 777 0700	info@addcd.gov.ae	25, Al Khaleej St, Al Muntazah , Zone 1 - Ministries Complex, 22404, Abu Dhabi

Relevant Administrative and Government Agencies

Name	Services Provided	Website	Phone number	Email	Location
Ministry of Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for Social Aid Issuing a new card for the People of Determination Issuing of a lost or damaged card for the People of Determination card Renewal of the People of Determination card Details of Periodic Update on Financial Assistance 	Scan the QR code 	800 623	Quality@mocd.gov.ae	Bani Yas St, East 3, Bani Yas City, Abu Dhabi
Ministry of Interior	Child Protection Dimensions	Scan the QR code 	02 402 2762	moi@moi.gov.ae	Zayed Sport City, Arab Gulf Street, Near to Shaikh Zayed Mosque
Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration for education and scholarships in UAE Verifying academic authenticity 	Scan the QR code 	08 005 1115	sd@moe.gov.ae ccc.moe@moe.gov.ae	Dubai Academic City Block 3
Social Care and Minors affairs foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for Medical-related Expenses Request for a Legal Consultation Manage Minors' Affairs Information Request a Certificate for Heirs under the Auspices of SCMAF Request for Education-related Expenses 	Scan the QR code 	02 699 1200	Not available	Al Nahyan - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Family Development Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Parenting Skills Integrated Family Social Welfare Childhood and Youth Development Family Education and Awareness 	Scan the QR code 	02 409 0111	info@fdf.gov.ae	Family Development Foundation, Al Mushrif - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

6



GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Applied Behavior Analysts	Applied Behavior Analysts support children and their families to understand and change behavior through a range of different strategies and techniques. These can be used to teach children new skills and reduce their difficult behaviours. Applied Behavior Analysts are frequently used to support children diagnosed with autism and developmental issues related to behavior.
Assessment and Diagnosis	The concept of developmental assessments relies on a structured assessment which may be conducted by a developmental assessment specialist, or if possible, by a team of professionals tailored to the child's particular developmental difficulties or delays (e.g., pediatrician, language specialist, audiologist, occupational therapist, child psychologist, physical therapist, infant mental health specialist). The family should be a partner in this process.
Caregiver	The term caregiver is an adult (parent, family member or other) who parents, or takes care of the child.
Child Development	The term Child Development is defined as the continuous process of acquiring skills and abilities from conception to the age of school entry across domains of cognition, language, motor, social and emotional development which helps individuals to think, solve problems, communicate, express emotions and form relationships. It is also considered the foundation of health, learning, productivity, wellbeing, and the building blocks for future human capital formation.

**Child of Determination/
Person of Determination**

In the UAE, persons with special needs or disabilities are referred to as 'people of determination' and 'children of determination' to recognize their achievements in different fields. A person with special needs is someone experiencing a temporary or permanent, full or partial limitation or illness in their physical, sensory, mental, communication, educational or psychological abilities to an extent that restricts their ability to participate in ordinary, everyday activities.

Developmental Delay

The term developmental delay has been defined as "a deviation of development from the normative milestones in the areas of cognitive, language, social, emotional and motor functioning (WHO, 2012, p. 2)." Children develop at different rates. Delays in development can be due to disabilities, but also to a host of other conditions. Some developmental delays may improve with age or intervention and can even disappear. The delay can be variable, some domains may be more delayed than others (e.g., language or socio-emotional), or atypical where the child develops differently in both the rate of development of a domain and the quality (e.g., a child who can memorize a dialogue heard on television but cannot ask for a food item).

**Developmental
Milestones**

The term developmental milestones refer to skills such as taking a first step, smiling for the first time, and waving "bye- bye." Children reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, behave, and move (e.g., crawling and walking) at the same age.

**Developmental
Screening**

The term developmental screening refers to a short checklist or test which may be used to see if the child is learning the expected basic skills at the expected approximate age, or if they might have delays. Some countries, like the United States or the UK, screen all children with the same tool at specific ages (e.g., developmental screening at birth, 14 days, 6-8th week of life, 12 months, and 24-30 months).

Early Intervention

The process of providing specialized support and services for infants and young children with disability and/or developmental delay, and their families, in order to promote development, wellbeing and community participation

Inclusive Education

The term inclusion is used to refer to the education of students with special needs in a regular classroom with their same-age peers who do not have disabilities. the aim of inclusion is to achieve the principle of equal educational opportunities for all students through the adaption of approaches to learning and environment.

Multidisciplinary

The involvement of two or more disciplines or professions in the provision of integrated and coordinated services including assessment and diagnosis activities.

Natural Environment

Settings that are natural or normal for the child's age peers who have no disability. This may include the home, neighborhood or community settings.

Occupational Therapist

Occupational Therapists support your child to build skills to develop independence in everyday activities such as getting dress, learning, mealtimes, and play. This may involve providing a child with specialist equipment to support their activities (e.g. bathing equipment, wheelchairs etc.) to assist in access or provide increased safety to these activities. The aim is to support the child to gain the highest attainable level of participation in daily life.

Physiotherapist

A physiotherapist supports skill development in the areas of movement, posture, and balance. They support caregivers with strategies for positioning, carrying, and encouraging overall motor development. They can also support the increased fitness and skills required for recreational sports. Physiotherapists can recommend and provide any specialized equipment to support a child's development or mobility including orthotics, walking frames, wheelchairs etc

**Primary Care
practitioner**

A primary care practitioner is a physician who provides both the first contact for a person with an undiagnosed health concern as well as continuing care of varied medical conditions, not limited by cause, organ system, or diagnosis.

Psychologist

Psychologists specialize in the treatment of a wide range of social, behavioral, emotional, or educational issues and disorders that affect children. Psychologists who work primarily with children conduct assessments and engage in therapy sessions with individuals, families and groups.

Rehabilitation

The term rehabilitation refers to the provision of educational and medical related programs and services to persons with disabilities. This aims to help them achieve the maximum level of independence possible and to function effectively in society.

Special Education

The term special education refers to educational programs and practices designed for students with disabilities. They also include those who are Gifted and Talented students, who's mental ability, physical ability and emotional functioning require special teaching approaches, equipment or instruction within or outside of a regular classroom.

Speech Pathologist

Speech pathologists provide support for your child to develop their communication and processing skills. This can include informing families on how best to build an effective environment for your child to communication and interact in. Speech pathologists can help children develop their social skills and can provide alternative methods of communicating, when required. These may include a communication board or specialized device (communication book etc.) to assist a child to communicate.

Social Workers

Social workers provide information, advocacy and counselling for individuals, couples, and families. They assess the needs of the family and can refer them to the required services. They can also provide support to a family in adjusting to a diagnosis of developmental delay or disability and provide practical assistance such as recommendation of community resources.

Blank page with horizontal dashed lines for writing.

Blank page with horizontal dashed lines for writing.



هيئة أبوظبي للطفولة المبكرة
Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority

The Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority is committed to the highest standards and we have young children and their families at the heart of all we do. If you have any suggestions or feedback on how the content in this guide could be improved, please get in touch

+971 2 499 9499
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
info@eca.gov.ae

FOLLOW US

-  Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority
-  @Abudhabi_ECA
-  Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority
-  abudhabi_eca

For trusted parenting resources
and to contribute, visit the
'Parents Platform' at eca.gov.ae

To download this guide
Scan the QR Code

