



NC NAVIGATING CARE FAMILY NAVIGATION GUIDE

The NC Navigating Care Family Navigation Guide is an ***easy-to-use online tool to find information and services for families with questions about their young children’s growth and development***. At the website or on a tablet or phone, the guide presents questions to the user that leads to online resources, tip sheets, and videos – about child development and services for children with developmental disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder. ***The guide will be available in Fall 2021*** and will be disseminated to organizations that provide family navigation services across the state, to promote consistency and improvement in the NC model for navigation for families with children ages Birth-8.

A Steering Committee of family members, service providers, and family navigators chose a decision-tree model for the guide to help families with concerns about their child’s development or who are seeking screening and evaluation. The guide also uses Charting the LifeCourse Framework “Life Domains” (<https://www.lifecoursetools.com/lifecourse-library/lifecourse-framework>) to organize the Resources section of the Navigation Guide. A Question and Answer format within the Life Domain topics (Healthy Living, Daily Life & Education, Community Living, Safety & Security, Social & Spirituality, Advocacy & Engagement) direct users to the information they need, including links to reliable online resources (e.g., CDC, NC Early Intervention Branch, Autism Society of NC). Family members helped to develop and review the guide to ensure that it reflected the values and goals that the committee adopted as a part of the Collective Impact approach that framed the committee’s work (e.g. families can use the guide by themselves or with a navigator, and reflects cultural diversity).

Developing the guide is one of the goals of the NC Navigating Care Project, which aims to implement innovative, evidence-based strategies (including Family Navigation and Provider Education) that improve access and integrated care in North Carolina for young children with/at risk for Developmental Delays/Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder (DD/ASD) and their families in medically underserved areas and populations.

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