

Suggested Elementary Action Items

Self-Advocacy

Assume that your child is capable and able to do things with independence and interdependence. Encourage them to try to do things independently, and when to ask for help. Teach him/her to take control of their interdependence and know it is okay to ask for assistance. Decrease the use of direct verbal prompting and encourage problem-solving by asking “What’s next?” or using environmental cues.

Situation	Direct Verbal Prompt	Problem Solving: Indirect verbal	Problem Solving: Environmental Cue
Dinner is over	Carry your dish to the counter	Where should your dish go?	Dinner is over what should you do next?
The trash can is full	Empty the trash can	The trash can is full, what do you need to do?	Point to the full trash can and say, “What should be done?” Eventually pointing to the trash can would become the prompt.

When teaching a new task you should always begin with the direct verbal prompt, with the goal being that the child eventually relies on the environmental cue.

Teach your child make choices. Use *First* → *Then* statements

- First, take your dish to the counter → then you can play
- First, ask for help → then I will help you
- First, wipe your face → then you can get down from the table
- First, pick up your toys → then we can go outside and play

Educational Planning for students projected to attend post-secondary education

(College, Trade School or Military)

Planning for post-secondary education begins with establishing study habits, knowing when you need help and knowing how to request assistance. Special Education services and modifications to the curriculum do not exist outside of public school, preschool through 12th grade. Students can only access accommodations.

Life Long Planning for students with Developmental Disabilities: Contact Lifepath to place your child on the interest for Medicaid waivers. [Lifepath Systems](#)

If you suspect that in the future your child may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income, it is important that he or she has less than \$2,000 in their name and Social Security number

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a Federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (*not* Social Security taxes and is considered welfare): It is designed to help aged, blind and people with disabilities who have little or no income and provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter. A person who receives SSI also receives Medicaid

A person is considered disabled if they have a physical or mental condition (or combination of conditions) that keeps them from working. The conditions must be expected to last at least 12 months or result in death.

Special Needs Trust can be established to save money for long term financial planning.

Life Long Planning: At this age parents are not sure if their child will have a developmental disability, but if one is suspected, the parents should contact Lifepath to place the child on the interest lists for Medicaid waivers. [Link](#) The waiting list for these services can be more than 15 years.