



A program of the Family Child Learning Center/ Akron Children's Hospital

What is CONNECTIONS?

CONNECTIONS is a short-term, intensive developmental intervention program for toddlers newly diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.

What do "intensive" and "developmental" mean?

Toddlers with ASD learn best through ongoing and repeated opportunities to interact with the people they know and love. During our twice-weekly "virtual" visits with you and your child, we will teach you and the people in your child's life strategies to use throughout the day. These strategies, when used regularly and consistently, have been shown to help toddlers with ASD develop and learn. In addition, we will help you figure out how to respond to behaviors that might be puzzling or difficult to manage.

What is a "virtual" visit?

We will be using technology to visit you in your home! You will be on a computer or laptop in your home, and you will click on a link that will connect you to an early interventionist on a computer here at FCLC. We will be able to see and hear each other throughout the visit. Families have told us that after the first few virtual visits, it's almost as if the computer isn't there.

What strategies will we be learning?

These strategies come from three approaches or "curricula."

- *Responsive Teaching*
- *Play to Talk*
- *Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)*

You will be able to use these strategies not only now, but also in the future as your child grows older.

Is CONNECTIONS just for my child?

No, CONNECTIONS is for the entire family! During our visits with you, we can answer your questions about Autism Spectrum Disorder and help you figure out how to share information with your extended family and friends.

Is there a cost?

There is no financial cost for families. However, we will be asking you to help us collect information on the strategies that you are using between our visits, as well as information on the impact of the program on you and your child.

Parents who have completed the program tell us that the time and energy required have been worth it. However, we do recognize that CONNECTIONS is a big time commitment. At any point if you feel that the intensity of CONNECTIONS is not a good fit for you and your family, please talk to us or your Help Me Grow Service Coordinator.



"I really don't know where he would have ended up without the program. Like I really just thought as he got older it would fix itself and it really didn't. I really was impressed with how much things have changed for him and with how much better things have gotten."



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