

Covid 19: Impact on Support Services for Children with Special Needs



Healthier Urban Families Outreach Program
Beverly Weathington, LMSW




MERRILL PALMER
SKILLMAN INSTITUTE

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Development*

Children with Special Needs

- Developmental
- Physical
- Behavioral/Emotional
- Sensory Impaired

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Types of Services Child May have been Receiving

- Speech Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Psychological Services
- Early On Support
- Respite Opportunities

Loss/Reduction in Services May Result in Child

Missing Needed Structure

Losing Acquired Gains

Not Understanding Sudden Changes

Not Adapting Well to Loss of Services

Not Making Progress

Loss/Reduction
in Services
May Result in
Parent Feeling

Concerned

Confused

Frustrated

Overwhelmed

Role of Parent

- **Advocating** – who to talk to
- **Prioritize** - what is most needed
- **Detective** – what providers are delivering services and how
- **Team Approach** – how can you help or be part of service delivery
- **Creative** – Can service be delivered in non-traditional way



If your Child Primarily Receives Support through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

01

Contact your child's school & schedule a meeting (virtual/phone options should be available)

02

Be prepared to share information on child's progression since March

03

Request a timeline for the return of support services (in person delivery may not be an option)

04

If your child will be participating in virtual learning, inquire about support services and equipment

If your Child's Services were Home Based

1

Contact service provider about possible in-person options (if safe and appropriate)

2

Contact service provider about virtual options or referrals to other providers

3

Contact service provider to learn what you can do to support your child until in-person services are resumed

4

Contact insurance provider to see what services are available and covered

Sources for Locating Services

Early On

Pediatrician

Intermediate
School District

Insurance
Provider

Support
Groups



Reach Out If
You Need
Help to
Address:

Your stress,
frustration or
anxiety

Advocacy for
your child

Concerns
about your
child's behavior

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