

**Caring for a child  
with a disability?**

**Develop  
a taste for  
alphabet  
soup!**

hcfa p&a  
idea iep lre sed  
ddc ada iss cp add dds  
cms tbi dd pass wic



# Learning Your ABCs

**B**ureaucratic shorthand. You'll hear a lot of it while searching for the care and services you and your child need. It will come from people working with state and federal agencies. And, you'll hear it when talking with representatives from the many not-for-profit organizations that serve people with developmental disabilities.

It's all part of one of the more important aspects of your education as a parent of a child with a developmental disability – “learning the language”.

What is “bureaucratic shorthand”? It's the abbreviated terms (called acronyms) used frequently by those who work with people with developmental disabilities. Like DDC, for example. That's the term we use when referring to the Arkansas Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council. It's one of the just over 100 most commonly used forms of bureaucratic shorthand you'll find in this brochure. Be aware, however, that you're going to run into many others.

So, if you run across a bureaucratic shorthand term you can't find in this brochure, here's what we advise:

- ◆ Explain to the person you're talking with that you do not understand what the abbreviation means;
- ◆ Write the abbreviation down;
- ◆ Ask the person for an exact definition;
- ◆ Write the definition down, and
- ◆ Practice using the abbreviation in conversation.

Why do all of this? Well, for one thing the same abbreviation can mean different things to different people. Take ADD, for instance. For the parents of a child with autism, ADD translates to Attention Deficit Disorder. To someone who works with or for the federal government, ADD is more likely to mean Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

But more importantly, learning the ABCs of developmental disabilities is critical to formulating the right questions...you know...the ones that get you the right answers.

# Disabilities

- ADD – Attention Deficit Disorder
- ADHD – Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- CP – Cerebral Palsy
- DD – Developmental Disabilities or Developmentally Delayed
- LD – Learning Disability
- MI – Mental Illness
- MR/DD – Mental Retardation/Developmental Disability
- SED – Severely (Seriously) Emotionally Disturbed
- TBI – Traumatic Brain Injury

# Federal Agencies

- ACF – Administration on Children and Families
- ADD – Administration on Developmental Disabilities
- ATBCB – Architecture and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board
- DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services
- DOE – Department of Education
- DOJ – Department of Justice
- DRS – Department of Rehabilitation Services
- EEOC – Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- HCFA – Health Care Finance Administration
- HUD – Department of Housing and Urban Development
- ICC – Interagency Coordinating Council (*for Early Childhood Intervention*)
- OCR – Office of Civil Rights
- OSEP – Office of Special Education Programs under the Department of Education
- OSERS – Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services under the Department of Education
- PCEPD – President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities
- PCMR – President's Committee on Mental Retardation
- RSA – Rehabilitation Services Administration
- SSA – Social Security Administration
- VA – Veterans Administration

# State Agencies

- ADE – Arkansas Department of Education
- ADH – Department of Health
- APS – Adult Protection Service (*A part of the Aging & Adult Services Division of DHS*)
- ARS – Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
- CMS – Children's Medical Services (*A division of DHS*)

DDC – Arkansas Governor’s Developmental Disabilities Council

DDS – Developmental Disabilities Services (*A division of DHS*)

DHS – Department of Human Services

UAP – University Affiliated Program of Arkansas

## **Not-for-Profit Organizations**

AAMR – American Association for Mental Retardation

AAUAP – American Association of University Affiliated Programs

ACDD – Accreditation Council on Services for People with Developmental Disabilities (*as of 6/97 The Council on Quality and Leadership in Supports for People with Disabilities*)

CCD – Consortia for Citizens with Disabilities

CDDC – Consortium of Developmental Disabilities Councils (*one of two national groups representing DD Councils*)

CEC – Council for Exceptional Children

DRC – Disability Rights Center of Arkansas

NADDC – National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils (*second national group representing DD Councils*)

NASDDDS – National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services

NCD – National Council on Disability

NCIL – National Council on Independent Living

NIDRR – National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

NAMI – National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

NAPAS – National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems

NICHCY – National Information Center for Children & Youth with Disabilities

TASH – The American Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps

UCPA – United Cerebral Palsy Associations

## **Federal/State Programs & Laws**

ABA – Architectural Barriers Act of 1968

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act

ADAAG – Americans with Disabilities Act Architectural Guidelines

ESY – Extended School Year for Special Education Services (*which may be required under an IEP*)

ICAN – Increasing Capabilities Access Network

IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

PASS – Plan to Achieve Self-Sufficiency

SSDI – Social Security Disability Insurance, Title II  
SSI – Supplemental Security Income  
TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (*formerly AFDC*)  
TEFRA – Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act  
WIC – Women, Infants and Children (*nutrition program*)

## **Other Bureaucratic Shorthand**

ADL – Activities of Daily Living  
AT – Assistive Technology  
CAP – Client Assistance Program  
CIL – Center(s) for Independent Living  
CPS – Child Protective Services  
EI – Early Intervention  
EPSDT – Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment  
FAPE – Free and Appropriate Public Education  
FFY – Federal Fiscal Year  
HCBS – Home and Community Based Services  
ICF/MR – Intermediate Care Facility for People with Mental Retardation  
IEP – Individual Education Program  
IFSP – Individual Family Service Plan  
IHE – Institutions of Higher Education  
IHP – Individualized Habilitation Plan  
ILC – Independent Living Center  
IPII – Independence, Productivity, Integration, Inclusion  
LEA – Local Education Agency  
LRE – Least Restrictive Environment  
JAN – Job Accommodation Network  
MCH – Maternal and Child Health  
OT – Occupational Therapy/Therapist  
P.L. – Public Law (*federal*)  
P&A – Protection and Advocacy  
PAIMI – Protection and Advocacy for the Institutionalized Mentally Ill  
PAIR – Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights  
PAS – Personal Assistance Services  
PRC/PERC – Parent (Education) Resource Centers  
PT – Physical Therapy/Therapist  
PWD – Persons with Disabilities  
QMROP – Qualified Mental Retardation Professional  
SABE – Self Advocates Becoming Empowered  
SILC – Statewide Independent Living Council  
SEA – State Education Agency  
TA – Technical Assistance  
TDD – Telecommunication Device for the Deaf

Arkansas  
Governor's



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**Funding for this brochure was provided under PL 104-183  
administered by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.**