

A Lifetime of Key Transitions





As life unfolds for an individual with an autism spectrum disorder, the child and his or her family will face unique challenges at each key transition point across his or her lifetime. This is a journey for the entire family of a child with an ASD diagnosis. While the child will need therapy, care, and specialized education, caregivers will need support, both emotionally and financially, in navigating the system.



The timeline graphic labeled **Figure 4** highlights common transition points that are especially important for persons with an ASD diagnosis.

04 A Lifetime of Key Transition Points

EARLY DIAGNOSIS

- Referral to physician specialist
- Referral to other medical specialists for comorbidity evaluations (if applicable)
- Referral to early intervention programs

EARLY INTERVENTION

- Intensive therapeutic intervention, including ABA therapy and other evidence-based interventions
- Application/referral to state waiver programs (if applicable)

PRE-K-12 EDUCATION

- Individual Educational Plan (IEP)
- Continued supplemental intervention and therapy
- Individual Transition Plan (ITP) in high school

ADULT TRANSITION

- Post-secondary education
- Career training
- Independent and supported living



To emphasize the importance of these transition points, most of the observations and recommendations included in this report are organized chronologically to coincide with key transitions on the timeline. The report observations and recommendations are organized into the following subparts:

01/ ASD Support Services
& Navigation

02/ Early Childhood Diagnosis

03/ Medical Comorbidities

04/ Early Childhood Intervention

05/ Pre-K-12 Education

06/ Adult Transition

07/ State Support Services

08/ ASD Research & National
Center of Excellence
Recognition

Throughout this report, recommendations will be made to improve the infrastructure and resources necessary to fill the large voids in the Capital Region.

