

## Key Issues for Families with Children with ASD across the Lifespan

Developmental Phase	Key Issues
<b>Initial Diagnosis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Managing the Emotional Impact of Diagnosis</li><li>• Obtaining Information about ASD and Interventions</li><li>• Accessing Early Intervention Services</li></ul>
<b>Early Childhood (up to 5 yrs.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding Variability in Child Development</li><li>• Identifying and Accessing Evidence-based Interventions</li><li>• Finding Childcare</li><li>• Dealing with Stressors and Emotional Reactions</li></ul>
<b>Childhood (6-12 yrs.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning about Special Education Rights and Services</li><li>• Advocating for Inclusive Opportunities</li><li>• Creating Social Opportunities for Child and Family</li></ul>
<b>Adolescence and Young Adulthood (13-21 yrs.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preparing for Transition to Adulthood</li><li>• Making Decisions about Post-Secondary Options</li><li>• Promoting Community and Social Engagement</li><li>• Understanding Health, Safety and Sexuality Issues</li><li>• Learning about Self Determination</li><li>• Engaging in Financial Planning</li></ul>
<b>Transition to Adulthood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working with Different Service Systems</li><li>• Supporting Employment and Post-Secondary Education</li><li>• Arranging for Housing</li><li>• Promoting Community Access and Inclusion</li><li>• Understanding and Managing Financial Benefits</li><li>• Planning for Guardianship or Independence</li><li>• Discussing Estate Planning</li></ul>
<b>Across the Lifespan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accessing and Coordinating Services</li><li>• Collaborating with Professionals</li><li>• Managing Day to Day Behavior</li><li>• Dealing with Marital Strain and Sibling Issues</li><li>• Responding to Reactions of Others</li><li>• Accessing Social Support and Identifying Respite</li><li>• Developing Advocacy Skills</li><li>• Managing Financial Demands</li></ul>

Bower Russa, M., Matthews, A., & Owen-DeSchryver, J. (2015). Expanding supports to improve the lives of families of children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*, 12(2), 95-104.