



Established in 1958, First Step began serving a handful of children and adults in Garland County. Today, a multitude of children and adults, from 27 counties throughout Arkansas, use our developmental and therapeutic services.

Our mission is to promote integration and independence of all people with disabilities.

In March 2023, we were issued a Three-Year CARF Accreditation. The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation is the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to a rehabilitation program and is your assurance that we are committed to providing excellent, evidence-based care to our patients by strictly adhering to nationally- and internationally-recognized standards of quality and patient care.



Accredited programs:

Community Employment Services: Employment Supports
Community Employment Services: Job Development
Services for Children and Youth: Child and Adolescent Services
Services for Children and Youth: Early Intervention Services

Community Housing
Community Integration
Supported Living

First Step Services

First Step offers a variety of home and community-based services for children and adults with developmental delays, disabilities, and special needs. After being referred by a primary care physician, First Step performs a comprehensive evaluation to help determine the individualized services needed. We provide resources to support the individual, their family members, and caregivers.

Children's Services

First Connections provides early intervention, or developmental services, for eligible infants and toddlers age birth to 36 months. This includes health and medical services as well as therapy services.

Early Intervention Day Treatment (EIDT) offers inclusive developmental preschools, serving children ages 18 months to 6 years old with and without developmental disabilities, special needs, and autism. This program provides special instruction through daily skill sessions and specialized services with a low staff to student ratios.

Developmental Treatment Clinic serves children, beginning at birth, who have developmental delays and required short- or long-term intervention. If detected early, many delays can be corrected.



School Age program provides an environment for children ages 5 to 21 years old to learn independent skills enabling them to function at the best of their abilities. Our certified special education teachers work with every child to bring about the highest levels of independence.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

ABA is a therapeutic treatment based on the science of learning and behavior for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The goal of this program is to help individuals work on skills that will help them become more independent and successful in the short term as well as in the future. Treatment is based on the age and ability level of the person with ASD.

Therapy Services

Our licensed therapists evaluate and design programs to meet each specific need.

Speech-Language Therapy: Assessment and treatment to address language, articulation, hearing, voice, fluency, and feeding skills.

Physical Therapy: Evaluation, assessment, and treatment of individuals with limitations in functional mobility and gross motor skills (sitting, standing, walking, climbing, etc.). Most equipment and orthotic devices can be fitted on site.



Occupational Therapy: Assistance for individuals with limitations in fine motor skills, visual motor tasks, and sensory processing.

Audiology: Evaluate, diagnose, treat, and manage hearing loss and balance disorders in individuals.

Community and Employment Support (CES) Waiver Services

This program offers services to support individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) with all major life activities. The goal of the waiver is to help individuals with IDD live in the community rather than in an institutional setting such as a nursing home or Intermediate Care Facility.

Adult Services

Adult Developmental Day Treatment (ADDT) assists adults with developmental disabilities learn to live as independently as possible.

Own Our Own program has group homes and individual apartment living that provide individuals with greater independence. Varied levels of support are available based on need.

Supported Employment provides our adult clients with job counseling and coaching to develop good work habits, training to learn various skills, and placement with employers in our community.

Personal Care Services

Our caregivers administer essential one-on-one in-home services to assist clients with basic living needs.

Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)

The ICF is a community-based residential program for children 8-18 years of age. To qualify, consumers must have a diagnosis of moderate or mild intellectual disability or be on the autism spectrum.



Locations

Hot Springs

407 Carson Street
501.624.6468

Fordyce

1717 Industrial Drive
870.352.7975

Malvern

1625 S. Main Street
501.337.7622

Glenwood

167 South Spur Eight
870.356.3622

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