

Resource Directory








Resources listed are not endorsed by DSAWM, but are a list of options that are available. If you know of additional West Michigan resources, please let us know at 616-956-3488 or director@dsawm.org. For more information, visit dsawm.org/resources.

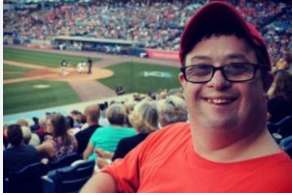




Early Stages (0-5) Resources

DSAWM Early Stages programs and services support families from diagnosis through the early developmental years. Areas of focus include parent support, communication and motor skill development, and socialization.

DSAWM Programs and Services for Early Stages

Learn more about each program by visiting dsawm.org/programs.

	<p>Baby Sign Language</p> <p>With just a few simple signs from American Sign Language, you can start communicating with your child – even before they begin to talk! Signing is fun, easy to do, and great for your child’s development!</p>
	<p>Member Financial Assistance</p> <p>DSAWM’s Member Financial Assistance Fund is designed to provide financial support to families raising individuals with Down syndrome who need help with certain Down syndrome-related expenses including adoption, education, therapy, adaptive devices, respite, and hospital stays.</p>
	<p>Oh, Baby!</p> <p>This baby shower for families who have a child with Down syndrome aged 5 and younger is a celebration and an opportunity for parents and siblings to connect with other families experiencing Down syndrome. Oh, Baby is held in August at the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum.</p>
	<p>Playgroups</p> <p>Playgroups are a fun, social option for promoting development. Playgroup focus varies and includes speech, fine motor, gross motor, communication, and more to meet the various needs of our children.</p>
	<p>Weekly Update</p> <p>The Weekly Update newsletter is emailed every Thursday and shares upcoming programs and services from DSAWM and our community partners. For new parents, it is an easy way to get connected and learn about the opportunities available to you and your family.</p>

	<p>Access! GR Through a partnership with Access! GR, DSAWM can connect members with the rich arts & cultural scene in West Michigan. Free tickets are available in a limited supply for both ongoing venues and special event venues. Accommodations can be made to make sure the arts are accessible to everyone.</p>
	<p>Holiday Party Every December, DSAWM families gather in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo to visit with Santa and reconnect with friends. The Grand Rapids Holiday Party is a member-only event and is held at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.</p>
	<p>Member Picnic Each summer, DSAWM families gather at Tunnel Park in Holland for a day of friends, food, and fun in the sun. The Member Picnic is a member only event and is held in July.</p>
	<p>Rock Your Socks Dance Rock your socks off at our annual Rock Your Socks Dance in honor of World Down Syndrome Day (3/21). The event is open to anyone interested in celebrating Down syndrome.</p>
	<p>Step Up for Down Syndrome Step Up for Down Syndrome is the largest Down syndrome awareness event in Michigan and DSAWM's biggest fundraiser. Families, friends, and the public are invited to this annual celebration and walk held each September where we come together to support our loved ones with Down syndrome.</p>

Community Supports

Supports Coordination

- **Early On**

Early On Michigan (1800earlyon.org or 1-800-327-5966) provides free services to families who have children (0-3) who have medical problems or are developmentally delayed. Services can include information, evaluation, linking to services, parent network, and financial help.

Therapy

Providers listed have indicated that they serve pediatric patients under 18 years of age.

- **Behavior Therapy & Psychology**

- **Defined:** “Applied behavioral analysis (ABA) is a type of therapy that can improve social, communication, and learning skills through positive reinforcement.” – [Healthline](#)
- **West Michigan Providers**

Anchored Family anchoredfamilypsych.com 616-667-9551 Jenison	Hope Network Behavioral Health hopenetwork.org/behavioral-health-services 616-301-8000 Grand Rapids
Behavior Analysts of West Michigan bawmi.com 616-915-2066 (Walker), 616-734-6094 (Kentwood)	Horizons Developmental Resource Center https://www.horizonsdrc.com/ 616-698-0306 Caledonia
BRAINS brainspotential.com 616-365-8920 Grand Rapids	Mark Scheffers, M.Div. LMSW http://www.markscheffers.com/ 269-350-6324 Kalamazoo
Comprehensive Therapy Center therapycenter.org 616-559-1054 Grand Rapids	Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services pinerest.org 800-678-5500 Grand Rapids
Developmental Enhancement Behavioral Health debh.org 616-499-2218 (Holland), 616-244-2246 (Grandville), 616-604-8492 (Grand Rapids)	Sarah Feaster, LMSW, IMH-E sarahfeaster.com 616-537-2772 Holland
EnCourage Institute for Teaching and Learning, LLC https://encourageinstitute.com/ 616-530-2224 Grand Rapids, Jenison	The Shoreline Center, LLC theshorelinecenter.com 616-935-7606 Grand Haven

- **Feeding Therapy**

- **Defined:** “Feeding therapy, in its simplest form, is when a trained occupational or speech therapist helps teach a child how to eat or eat better.” – [NAPA Center](#)
- Learn more about Feeding Therapy from the [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](#)
- **West Michigan Providers**

Bronson Outpatient Rehabilitation Center bronsonhealth.com/services/children/treatments/pediatric-rehabilitation 269-544-3230 Kalamazoo	Horizons Developmental Resource Center https://www.horizonsdrc.com/ 616-698-0306 Caledonia
Family Tree Therapies familytreetherapies.com 616-448-7799 Grand Rapids, Rockford	Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Pediatric Outpatient Feeding Therapy maryfreebed.com/kids/outpatient 800-528-8989 Grand Rapids
Helen DeVos Intensive Feeding Program spectrumhealth.org/services/helen-devos-childrens-hospital/feeding-programs 616-486-6870 Grand Rapids	The Center for Childhood Development www.thecenterforcd.com 616-667-9551 Jenison, Holland, Kalamazoo
High 5 Speech Therapy high5speechtherapy.com 970-988-6718 Holland, Grand Rapids	Thrive Pediatric Speech & Feeding Therapy, LLC https://www.thrivepediatricspeech.com/ 616-379-9887 Grandville

- **Music Therapy**

- **Defined:** “Music Therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program.” – [American Music Therapy Association](#)
- **West Michigan Providers**

Edge Water Music Therapy edgewatertherapy.com/our-services-and-programs 269-329-0730 Kalamazoo	West Michigan Music Therapy, LLC westmichiganmt.com Grand Rapids
Franciscan Life Process Center lifeprocesscenter.org/services/music-therapy 616-897-7842 Lowell	Western Michigan University Music Therapy Clinic wmich.edu/musictherapy/clinic 269-387-4679 Kalamazoo
Lakeshore Music Therapy Services sites.google.com/site/lakeshoremusictherapy 616-834-0597 Holland	

- **Occupational Therapy/Sensory Integration**

- **OT Defined:** “Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants help people across the lifespan participate in the things they want and need to do

through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations).” – [American Occupational Therapy Association](#),

- **SI Defined:** “Sensory integration involves perceiving, modulating, organizing, and interpreting these sensations to optimize occupational performance and participation.” – [American Occupational Therapy Association](#)
- Learn more about the relationship between Occupational Therapy, Sensory Integration, and Down syndrome at [NDSS.org](#).
- **West Michigan Providers**

<p>BRAINS brainspotential.com 616-365-8920 Grand Rapids</p>	<p>Generation Care generationcare.org 616-935-3300 (Grand Haven), 616-259-4028 (Grand Rapids), 231-737-4374 (Muskegon)</p>
<p>Bronson Outpatient Rehabilitation Center bronsonhealth.com/services/children/treatments/pediatric-rehabilitation 269-544-3230 Kalamazoo</p>	<p>Sensational Steps Therapy sensationalstepstherapy.com 616-402-6997 Grand Haven</p>
<p>Comprehensive Therapy Center therapycenter.org 616-559-1054 Grand Rapids</p>	<p>Sensory Systems Clinic West sensoryclinicwest.com 269-792-2353 Wayland</p>
<p>Conductive Learning Center conductivelearningcenter.org 616-575-0575 Grand Rapids</p>	<p>The Center for Childhood Development thecenterforcd.com 616-667-9551 Jenison, Holland, Kalamazoo</p>
<p>Engage Therapy Center engagetherapycenter.com 616-741-9320 Zeeland</p>	<p>The Shoreline Center, LLC theshorelinecenter.com 616-935-7606 Grand Haven</p>
<p>Family Tree Therapies familytreetherapies.com 616-448-7799 Grand Rapids, Rockford</p>	<p>WMU Marion R. Spear Occupational Therapy Clinic wmich.edu/unifiedclinics/unifiedclinicsaboutot 269-387-7000 Kalamazoo</p>

● **Physical Therapy**

- **Defined:** “Physical therapists are movement experts who improve quality of life through prescribed exercise, hands-on care, and patient education.” – [American Physical Therapy Association](#)
- Learn more about the relationship between Physical Therapy and Down syndrome at [NDSS.org](#).

- **West Michigan Providers**

Bronson Outpatient Rehabilitation Center bronsonhealth.com/services/children/treatments/pediatric-rehabilitation 269-544-3230 Kalamazoo	Generation Care generationcare.org 616-935-3300 (Grand Haven), 616-259-4028 (Grand Rapids), 231-737-4374 (Muskegon)
Comprehensive Therapy Center therapycenter.org 616-559-1054 Grand Rapids	Horizons Developmental Resource Center https://www.horizonsdrc.com/ 616-698-0306 Caledonia
Conductive Learning Center conductivelearningcenter.org 616-575-0575 Grand Rapids	The Center for Childhood Development thecenterforcd.com 616-667-9551 Jenison, Holland, Kalamazoo

- **Recreational Therapy**

- **Defined:** “Recreational therapy, also known as therapeutic recreation, is a systematic process that utilizes recreation and other activity-based interventions to address the assessed needs of individuals with illnesses and/or disabling conditions, as a means to psychological and physical health, recovery and well-being.” – [American Therapeutic Recreation Association](#)
- Examples of Recreational Therapy: Animal Therapy, Athletics/Outdoor Recreation, Hippotherapy (horseback riding), Horticultural Therapy, Visual and Performing Arts. For a listing of day programs and camps that incorporate recreational therapy, visit dsawm.org/school-age-resources and view the dropdowns under the Social Programming/Activities heading.
- **West Michigan Providers**

Life Therapeutic Solutions life-ts.com/Home.aspx 800-925-3152 Wyoming	Legacy Stables & Karin’s Horse Connection (Hippotherapy) karinshorses.com/karins-horse-connection 616-570-1106 Caledonia
Cheff Therapeutic Riding Center (Hippotherapy) cheffcenter.org 269-731-4471 Augusta	Renew Therapeutic Riding Center (Hippotherapy) renewtrc.org 616-227-3639 Holland

- **Speech Therapy**

- **Defined:** “Speech therapy is the assessment and treatment of communication problems and speech disorders.” – [Healthline](#)
- Learn more about the relationship between Speech Therapy and Down syndrome at NDSS.org.

○ **West Michigan Providers**

<p>BRAINS brainspotential.com 616-365-8920 Grand Rapids</p>	<p>High 5 Speech Therapy high5speechtherapy.com 970-988-6718 Holland, Grand Rapids</p>
<p>Bronson Outpatient Rehabilitation Center bronsonhealth.com/services/children/treatments/pediatric-rehabilitation 269-544-3230 Kalamazoo</p>	<p>Horizons Developmental Resource Center https://www.horizonsdrc.com/ 616-698-0306 Caledonia</p>
<p>Building Blocks Therapy Services buildingblocksgr.com 616-259-4207 Grand Rapids</p>	<p>Mitten Speech Therapy mittenspeechtherapy.com 616-730-2184 Grandville</p>
<p>Calvin University Speech and Hearing Clinic calvin.edu/academics/departments-programs/speech-pathology-audiology/speech-clinic/ 616-526-6070 Grand Rapids</p>	<p>South Shore Speech, LLC southshorespeech.com 269-660-1025 Battle Creek</p>
<p>Comprehensive Therapy Center therapycenter.org 616-559-1054 Grand Rapids</p>	<p>The Center for Childhood Development thecenterforcd.com 616-667-9551 Jenison, Holland, Kalamazoo</p>
<p>Duncan Lake Speech Therapy, LLC duncanlakespeechtherapy.com 616-528-0870 Caledonia</p>	<p>The Shoreline Center, LLC theshorelinecenter.com 616-935-7606 Grand Haven</p>
<p>Family Tree Therapies familytreetherapies.com 616-448-7799 Grand Rapids, Rockford</p>	<p>Thrive Pediatric Speech & Feeding Therapy, LLC https://www.thrivepediatricspeech.com/ 616-379-9887 Grandville</p>
<p>Generation Care generationcare.org 616-935-3300 (Grand Haven), 616-259-4028 (Grand Rapids), 231-737-4374 (Muskegon)</p>	<p>Western Michigan University Speech Therapy Clinic wmich.edu/unifiedclinics/vanriper-0 269-387-7000 Kalamazoo</p>
<p>Grand Haven Speech Partners grandhavenspeech.com 616-414-0891 Grand Haven</p>	

- **Multidisciplinary Therapy**

- **Defined:** Multidisciplinary providers have experience and professional training to practice a variety of therapies.
- **West Michigan Providers**

BRAINS brainspotential.com 616-365-8920 Grand Rapids	High 5 Speech Therapy high5speechtherapy.com 970-988-6718 Holland, Grand Rapids
Bronson Outpatient Rehabilitation Center bronsonhealth.com/services/children/treatments/pediatric-rehabilitation 269-544-3230 Kalamazoo	Horizons Developmental Resource Center https://www.horizonsdrc.com/ 616-698-0306 Caledonia
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Generation Care generationcare.org 616-935-3300 (Grand Haven), 616-259-4028 (Grand Rapids), 231-737-4374 (Muskegon)	

Medical

- **Communicating with Your Physician**

Boston's MassGeneral Hospital For Children (massgeneral.org/children or 888-644-3248) created a Talking to the Doctor Workbook for individuals with Down syndrome that focuses on sharing feelings and asking questions. They also offer remote second opinions to patients and health care providers in the United States. Similarly, **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia** (chop.edu or 800-879-2467) offers a Toolkit for Transitioning to Adult Medical Care for individuals with Down syndrome. View both the workbook and toolkit at dsawm.org/early-stages-resources.

LuMind IDSC (lumindidsc.org or 781-825-1300) has also launched the first-of-its-kind DSC2U, an “online toolkit that provides customized, expert-driven information for people with Down syndrome from age 1 through adulthood. Immediately upon completion of the form, caregivers receive two personalized documents: one for themselves and one to share with their primary healthcare provider. Both documents contain detailed, customized suggestions, follow-up questions, and conversation prompts that are designed to optimize time with a primary care provider and offer caregivers the vocabulary and tools they need to advocate for their loved one.” Learn more at lumindidsc.org.

For support when speaking with dental providers, take a look at **Dentably’s Dental Care Guidance for Caregivers of Patients with Down syndrome** at emergencydentistsusa.com/down-syndrome-and-dental-care.

- ***Finding a Provider***

Looking for a medical provider? The Preferred Medical Provider List is maintained by **Down Syndrome Head Start** and lists doctors, dentists, and other providers recommended by Michigan families experiencing Down syndrome. This list can be viewed at dsawm.org/early-stages-resources. **Please note that Down Syndrome Head Start’s website has been down as of November 2018. This list has not been updated since 2017. If you are looking for more up-to-date information, we recommend reaching out on the **Michigan Parents of Children with Down Syndrome Facebook group** at facebook.com/groups/DownSyndromeMichigan.

Looking for a dentist? The **Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA)** (scdaonline.org) is a unique international organization of oral health professionals and other individuals who are dedicated to promoting oral health and well-being for people with special needs. A list of Michigan dentists belonging to SCDA can be found on their site. The **Michigan Parents group on Facebook** is also a good resource for finding dental recommendations.

- ***Paying for Your Child’s Healthcare Expenses: CSHCS & CSNF***

Children’s Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) of Michigan (michigan.gov or 1-800-359-3722) provides low or no cost supplemental health insurance for a variety of covered medical diagnoses for individuals under 21 years old. While Down syndrome alone is not a qualifying diagnosis, CSHCS covers over 2,700 physical conditions of which many individuals with Down syndrome may experience at least one. To view a complete list of covered conditions and the contact information for each county’s CSHCS branch visit michigan.gov/mdhhs.

The Children with Special Needs Fund (michigan.gov/csntfund or 517-241-7420) provides support for children ages 0-21 in Michigan with special health care needs not available through any other funding source. The Fund helps with the purchase of equipment and services that promote optimal health, mobility, and development, enhancing the lives of children and their families.

Financial

- **Local Assistance Programs**

DSAWM Financial Assistance is available to members for expenses related to the following when relating to support, care, or treatment of person with Down syndrome: adoption, respite care, and educational, medical, therapeutic, and adaptive services or devices. DSAWM members are also eligible for our Meal Voucher Program which offsets meal expenses for families whose child with Down syndrome is experiencing an overnight stay in the hospital. Learn more at dsawm.org/programs/financial-assistance.

Family Hope Foundation (familyhopefoundation.org or 616-729-8833) offers scholarships of up to \$1,000 twice a year to West Michigan families for therapies that have little or no insurance coverage.

Lori's Voice (lorisvoice.org) provides funding for equipment, educational resources, or expenses related to medical treatment for individuals up to 21 years old who have neurological, muscular, or other degenerative conditions resulting in permanent impairment or mobility issues.

In need of immediate assistance? Contact **2-1-1**. Michigan 2-1-1 is available 24/7 via phone, text, or online search to connect callers with local community-based organizations across the state that provide support and assistance to those in need. Access their online resources at mi211.org.

- **National Assistance Programs**

- **AMBUCS** (ambucs.org) provides AmTrykes, therapeutic tricycles for children and adults with disabilities, including children with low muscle tone
- **Apraxia Kids** (apraxia-kids.org) provides speech tablets and protective cases to children with a diagnosis of apraxia of speech to aid in communication
- **Cerner Charitable Foundation** (cernercharitablefoundation.org) provides financial assistance for medical care, medical devices, vehicle modification, and travel for those 18 and younger with a disability
- **Different Needz Foundation** (differentneedzfoundation.org) provides grants for medical equipment and/or services, including developmental therapies
- **Friendship Circle's Great Bike Giveaway** (greatbikegiveaway.com) provides an opportunity for children and teens to win an adaptive bike as well as provides a fundraising platform to purchase a bike at a discounted price
- **LifeLine Pilots** (lifelinepilots.org) provides free medical and compassion flights to patients in the Midwest with financial need
- **Maggie Welby Foundation** (maggiewelby.org) provides scholarships to children in kindergarten thru 12th grade whose families demonstrate financial need
- **McLindon Family Foundation** (mclindonfamilyfoundation.org) provides adaptive bicycles for children with special needs
- **Microsoft** (microsoft.com) provides scholarships to promising high school seniors with disabilities who plan to attend a vocational or academic college and target a career in the technology industry

- **Modest Needs** (modestneeds.org) provides short-term financial help for families in crisis situations
- **Montana Melin Foundation** (montanamelinfoundation.com) provides financial assistance to the families of children with Down Syndrome that are facing medical hardships
- **My Gym Foundation** (mygymfoundation.org) provides grants for the purchase of medical and therapy equipment for children with special needs under 18 years old
- **NDSS** (ndss.org) provides scholarships to individuals with Down syndrome in the areas of post-secondary education, entrepreneurship, and self-advocacy
- **Needy Meds** (needymeds.org) provides discounted and free medication programs and other services for low income families
- **Parker Lee Project** (theparkerleeproject.org) provides medical supplies and equipment to children at no cost, including enteral supplies, formula, and incontinence supplies
- **Project Angel Fares** (projectangelfares.com) grants all-expenses-paid trips to children with special needs to visit Morgan's Wonderland – an ultra-accessible theme park in Texas
- **Ruby's Rainbow** (rubysrainbow.org) provides scholarships to individuals with Down syndrome who are pursuing post-secondary education, enrichment, or vocational classes
- **Small Steps in Speech** (smallstepsinspeech.org) grants funds for speech and language disorder therapies for people aged 3-22 years old
- **Special Kids Photography of America** (specialkidsphotography.com) provides grants for family pictures
- **Stepping Stones for Stella** (steppingstonesforstella.org) provides buggies for children with special needs to enjoy outdoors to its fullest
- **UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation** (uhccf.org) offers grants for kids 16 years old or younger for services health insurance does not cover
- **Wheelchairs 4 Kids** (wheelchairs4kids.org) provides wheelchairs, home and vehicle modifications, as well as other assistive and therapeutic devices for children that have limited mobility
- **Wings of Mercy** (wingseastmi.org) provides free medical flights to patients in eastern Michigan with financial need

For more information about Early Stages Resources, visit our website at dsawm.org/early-stages-resources. You are welcome to contact our office with any questions at 616-956-3488 or director@dsawm.org. We are here to support your family!

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