

ACRONYM AND TERM GLOSSARY

Help Me Grow is a system that supports Alameda County families with children birth to age 5 by training providers to do developmental screening and follow-up, providing direct access to developmental screening, providing information on child development and developmental milestones, and providing referrals and family navigation for resources and services. Help Me Grow also works to increase collaboration among providers and systems working with families with children birth to age 5.

504/Section 504	A law that is used mostly for children in preschool and afterschool setting for young children. Section 504 is a part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that prohibits discrimination based upon disability. For children, Section 504 is an anti-discrimination, civil rights statute that requires the needs of students with disabilities to be met as adequately as the needs of the non-disabled are met.
ABA Applied Behavioral Analysis	Applied Behavioral Analysis is a behavioral intervention often used for children with autism spectrum diagnoses but may be used for other children if medically necessary. Also may be called BHT (Behavioral Health Treatment)
ACES Adverse Childhood Experiences	Childhood experiences, both positive and negative, can have a tremendous impact on lifelong health and opportunities. As such, early experiences are an important public health issue. This is referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
ACCESS	Alameda County Residents (all ages) may call ACCESS (1-800-491-9099) to be referred to all County mental health and substance abuse services, which are primarily for individuals with Medi-Cal. They offer services in Spanish and in 8 Asian languages.
ACPHD Alameda County Public Health Department	Alameda County Public Health Department is a county agency that has an array of programs and services designed to protect the health and safety of County residents. These services include assessments of the health status of residents, disease prevention and control, community mobilization and outreach, policy development, education, and assurance of access to quality medical and health care services.
Acute Condition	A medical condition that occurs suddenly and severely, such as a broken leg.
ADHD/ADD Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/Attention Deficit Disorder	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/Attention Deficit Disorder. ADHD/ADD are common behavioral disorders. Children with ADHD act without thinking, are hyperactive, and have trouble focusing. They may understand what's expected of them but have trouble following through because they can't sit still, pay attention, or attend to details. Children receiving a diagnosis of ADHD have symptoms that are

	present over a long period of time and occur in different settings. They impair a child's ability to function socially, academically, and at home.
API Academic Performance Index	Academic Performance Index. State test used to rank school performance.
Asperger's	An autism spectrum disorder, characterized by social, communication and behavioral challenges. It differs from other autism spectrum disorders in the language and cognitive skills are usually not as affected. Not as commonly used since 2013.
Assessment	In-depth process of looking at one or more developmental areas to determine the nature and extent of a physical, developmental or social-emotional problem, as well as identify strengths and needs. Assessment is sometimes used interchangeably with the word evaluation, but the two words have slightly different technical meanings (See Evaluation).
ASQ-3 Ages & Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition	Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition. A parent-completed developmental screening tool for children between one month and 5½ years (see definition of Screening for more info). Like all screens, it helps determine whether a child need more in depth assessment.
ASQ: SE Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional	Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional. A companion tool to the ASQ-3 that looks at a child's behavior and social-emotional development.
Audiology / Audiologist	A medical specialist who assesses hearing.
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. With the May 2013 publication of the DSM-5 diagnostic manual, all autism disorders were merged into one umbrella diagnosis of ASD.
BCBA Board Certified Behavioral Analyst	Board Certified Behavioral Analyst is a specialist in evaluating behavior and developing behavior plans, and one who has met standards for certification.
Basic Needs	These are services that address the most basic needs a family has such as those for food, clothing and shelter.
Behaviorist	A specialist working in behavior, who may or may not be certified as a BCBA.
Behavior Plan / Behavior Intervention	Also known as a Positive Intervention Plan, a plan used to help shape the environment to direct a child's behavior into more functional patterns using positive reinforcements.
BHCS	Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services is county agency that provides counseling, therapies for behavioral concerns, and substance

Behavioral Health Care Services	abuse services for eligible residents of Alameda County.
Blind Babies Foundation	Provides early intervention and education services to infants and preschoolers who are blind or visually impaired
Best Practice	A method of treatment or service delivery that has been proven to be effective through research and experience.
CAC Community Advisory Committee	There are 5 SELPAs (Special Education Local Plan areas) in Alameda County. Each has a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education made up primarily of parents. The purpose of the CAC is to advocate for effective Special Education programs and services, and advise on priorities in the SELPA.
CADRE	An organization in Oregon that provides information on dispute resolution to parents and school districts nationally.
Child Development Care Coordinators (CDCCs)	Staff of the Help Me Grow phone line who provide information, support and resources for children’s learning, behavior and development.
CBO Community-Based Organization	Community-Based Organization. A public or private non-profit organization which is representative of the communities serves. CBOs provide services such as those related to health, education or job training.
CCS California Children’s Services	California Children’s Services. A state program, administered by counties, that covers eligible children with complex medical conditions, who meet financial eligibility requirements. Also provides physical and occupational therapy to eligible children at the Medical Therapy Program (MTP), there is no financial eligibility for MTP service.
Center for the Vulnerable Child (CVC)	A department of Children’s Hospital Oakland that provides individual and family therapy, clinical and medical case management, developmental screening, and parental education to children experiencing poverty, family disruption, homelessness, foster care placement, drug exposure, abuse, neglect, community violence, or other threats may be at risk for health, emotional, developmental, or social problems.
CDC Child Development Centers	Child Development Centers are preschools programs run by school districts.
CHDP Child Health and Disability Prevention Program	A preventive health program providing health assessments, dental services and other care coordinating services for income-qualified children in California
CDE California Department of Education	California Department of Education is a state agency that oversees education in the state, including special education.
CEID	Center for Early Intervention on Deafness is a CBO that provides

Center for Early Intervention on Deafness	services to young children, from 0 to 5, who are deaf, hard of hearing or who have severe speech and language delays.
Charter School	A public school that operates independently of the established school system.
CHO/BCHO UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland	This is a children's hospital located in Oakland, with satellite offices around the county. It provides a variety of medical, mental health and intervention services to children in Alameda County and the surrounding area.
Chronic Condition	A chronic condition is health condition or disease that is persistent or otherwise long lasting, such as high blood pressure.
Consumer/Client	A person who is the recipient of services provided by an agency or organization.
CPS Child Protective Services	The system of intervention for child abuse and neglect.
Cultural Competence	The understanding that we all are all shaped by our culture, and that services and care for a family should include a focus on their cultural, linguistic, socio-economic, educational and spiritual experiences.
CWS Child Welfare System	Child Welfare System. CPS is part of the CWS. Child welfare systems typically receive and investigate reports of possible child abuse and neglect; provide services to families that need assistance in the protection and care of their children; arrange for children to live with kin or with foster families when they are not safe at home; and arrange for reunification, adoption, or other permanent family connections for children leaving foster care.
DDS Department of Developmental Services	Department of Developmental Services is the agency provides services and supports to children and adults with developmental disabilities through the regional center system. Regional Center of the East Bay serves families in Alameda County.
DHH Deaf and hard of hearing	Deaf and hard of hearing.
Developmental Delay	Developmental Delay is when a child does not reach their developmental milestones at the expected times. It can be an ongoing major or a minor delay in the process of development. Delay can occur in one or many areas—for example, gross or fine motor (walking or hand use), language, social, or thinking skills. Developmental Delay is most often a diagnosis made by a doctor or clinician based on strict guidelines.
Developmental Pediatrician	A Developmental Pediatrician is a doctor with specialty training in the care of children and certified by the American Board of Pediatrics, who

	brings a child- and family oriented perspective to the evaluation process. They have additional training that focuses on the assessment and management of developmental problems.
Developmental Playgroups	Developmental Playgroups are playgroups where young children get a chance to play and interact, as well as work with educational experts and therapists in a group setting.
Disproportionality	Disproportionality is defined as the over or under representation of a particular group of people in a particular group or system, compared to the total percentage of the population for their group.
DME Durable Medical Equipment	Durable Medical Equipment. Equipment for individuals with special health care needs, including such items as wheel chairs, nebulizers and specialized beds.
DREDF Disability Rights and Education Defense Fund	Disability Rights and Education Defense Fund. DREDF is the Parent Training and Information center (PTI) for Alameda County. It provides parents free information about the Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and the Individual Education Plan (IEP) to parents.
DSM Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders	The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, published by the American Psychiatric Association, offers a common language and standard criteria for the classification and diagnosis of mental disorders. There have been multiple editions. The 5 th edition is the most current.
DSP (Developmental Screening Program)	A program offered by Help Me Grow for parents and caregivers with children age 5 and under. Parents and caregivers sign up to receive the Ages & Stages Questionnaires through email or mail. It is scored by Help Me Grow staff and, if there are concerns, the Help Me Grow phone line staff will contact the family.
Early Intervention (EI)	Interventions for young children that reduce adverse personal, social, health, and economic consequences resulting from developmental delay, disability, a severe illness or mental health concern.
ECE Early Care and Education or Early Childhood Education	Early Care and Education or Early Childhood Education; umbrella term including daycare, child care, preschool etc.
Early Start	Early Start is the program that provides early intervention to eligible infants and toddlers (0 to 3 years of age) under IDEA. Provided primarily by regional centers (Regional Center of the East Bay) but in a few instances by school districts.
ECMH Early Childhood Mental Health	Early Childhood Mental Health. A system or field focusing on preventive and treatment-based mental health services and strategies for infants and young children.
Entitlement Programs	Programs for which access has been guaranteed to eligible individuals through state or federal laws such as special education or regional center services.

EPSDT Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment is an enhanced version of Medi-Cal, supported through a combination of state and federal funding. EPSDT can fund services to children and youth on Medi-Cal that focus on screening and disability prevention. In Alameda County, EPSDT is often used to refer to the mental health services benefit for Medi-Cal recipients.
ESY Extended School Year	Extended School Year (ESY) services are special education services outside of the regular school year, usually the summer. ESY services are designed to support a student with a disability as documented under special education to maintain the academic, social/behavioral, communication, or other skills that they have learned.
Evaluation	Evaluation consists of the procedures used by qualified personnel to determine a child's initial and continuing eligibility for services such as Early Start or special education.
Family-Centered	An approach to providing services that recognizes that each family is unique; that the family is the constant in the child's life; and that they are the experts on the abilities and needs of their child and family. The family works with service providers to make informed decisions about the services and supports the child and family receive. In family-centered service, the strengths and needs of the family are considered.
Family Advocate	Usually a person who works for a community-based agency and provides family support services, helping families link to resources and achieve their goals. Many Head Start programs have family advocates who work with the families who children are attending their preschools.
Family Member	A person, who has provided primary support for, is a primary caregiver of, or whose daily life is impacted by a person who is living with developmental delay, social emotional concern or disability. Family members may be the biological parents, foster parents, siblings, spouses, children, aunts, uncles, cousins or friends.
Family Navigators (FN)	Family Navigators in Help Me Grow are staff that provide family support, assistance and resources. Services are in-person or by telephone and may include working together to support family needs and goals; information and referrals to other community resources; connecting families to services and making sure families receive services at home or in the community such as early intervention services, mental health services, community services, and developmental services; and communication with other providers serving the child. Family Navigator is a job title also used in other systems and services and usually involves a staff person who provides support, guidance and resources to families.
Family Partner	A family partner is usually a staff person who works for a community-based agency (in our county they are most common in mental health agencies) who have lived experience and offer support, modeling and

	skill development to parents. They act as liaisons and advocates between family and the mental health or educational system.
Federal	Refers to United States Federal Government, its departments and/or agencies.
FAPE Free and Appropriate Public Education	The entitlement of children under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is to FAPE – a free and appropriate public education -- in the least restrictive environment (LRE).
Functional Behavioral Analysis (FBA)	A process where a child’s problem behaviors and their probable causes are identified. Used to create behavior plans in school settings when problem behaviors are severe and used to create positive behavioral plans for the child.
FERPA Family Education Rights and Privacy Act	FERPA is a law that protects the privacy of a student’s educational records and information.
Financial Assistance/Support	Programs that provide financial supports to families to help them meet their needs such as for childcare, housing and food.
First 5 (F5AC)	First 5 Alameda County is a county agency that funds programs and services for children ages 0-5 and their families and provides training to providers working with that population
FRN Family Resource Navigators	Family Resource Navigators (FRN). FRN is a parent to parent agency that provides family navigation, trainings and peer emotional support to families with developmental delays, disabilities and special health care needs.
FTE Full-Time Equivalent	A measure of how much staff are dedicated to a specific project – i.e. 1 FTE is equal to one person working full time.
Global Delay/Global Developmental Delay	When a child has not reached two or more milestones in all areas of development (See developmental delay for more)
HCSA Health Care Services Agency	This county agency contains both Public Health and Behavioral Health Care Services. Works to provide fully integrated health care services through a comprehensive network of public and private partnerships that ensure optimal health and well-being and respect the diversity of all residents.
Head Start/Early Head Start	Head Start (3-5) and Early Head Start (0-3) programs provide comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and incorporate parent involvement. The focus is on children and their families who have low income. The program's services and resources are designed to foster stable family relationships, enhance children's physical and emotional well-being, and establish an environment to develop strong cognitive skills.
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act(HIPAA) is a law that

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	protects the privacy of health and health care information.
IDS Infant Development Specialist	An IDS is a provider of Early Intervention Services (EI Services). The IDS focuses on infant/toddler development and ways to promote growth and learning, including designing learning environments & activities to promote development across all domains.
IDEA Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	The special education law that creates an entitlement to a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment for eligible children.
IEE Independent Educational Evaluation	Parents with a child eligible for special education under IDEA has a right to If obtain what is known as an Independent Educational Evaluation , or an IEE , This means that you may ask that a professional, competent evaluator who is not employed by the school system conduct another evaluation of your child at public expense.
IEP Individual Education Plan	An IEP is a plan decided at meeting between parents and school district staff on what a child’s educational goals will be for the next year, what services are being committed to help the child reach those goals as well as any accommodations or modifications a child requires.
IFSP Individualized Family Service Plan	Individualized Family Service Plan is a plan for Early Start services that states a child’s agreed upon goals and the services that the child and family require to help the child achieve those goals.
IPP Individual Program Plan	For people who are eligible under the Lanterman Act (Regional Center services over 3), the IPP is a document that lays out what services and supports a person needs and prefers. It also says who will provide those services and supports.
Lanterman Act	The Lanterman Act is the California law that gives eligible people with developmental disabilities (such as autism, intellectual impairment, cerebral palsy and epilepsy) and their families a right to get the services and supports they need to live like people without disabilities. Administered by Regional Center of the East Bay in Alameda County.
LCSW Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Licensed Clinical Social Worker. A social worker trained in psychotherapy who helps individuals deal with a variety of mental health and daily living problems to improve overall functioning.
Low-incidence disability	Means a rare disabling condition that includes disabilities such as hearing impairments, vision impairments, severe orthopedic impairments, or any combination thereof.
M-CHAT Modified Checklist for Autism	Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers is a validated developmental screening tool for toddlers between 16 and 30 months of age. It is designed to identify children who may have autism spectrum disorders.

in Toddlers	
Medical Therapy Unit (MTU)	MTUs provide physical and occupational therapy to children who meet CCS qualifications. These services are usually coordinated with those of the school district for children in special education.
Medi-Cal	Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid health care program. This program pays for a variety of medical services for children and adults with limited income and resources. Medi-Cal is supported by federal and state taxes.
Medical Services	Health care services other than mental health and dental services.
MFT Marriage and Family Therapists	Marriage and Family Therapists are licensed mental health professionals who work with individuals; couples - whether or not married; families of all types; and groups to cure or relieve mental, emotional, and relational concerns of all kinds.
MDT Multi-Disciplinary Team	Multi-Disciplinary Team is a group of people from different disciplines and professions who are experts in different areas for the purpose of planning and implementing care or services for children.
MHSA Mental Health Services Act	Mental Health Services Act/Proposition 63 was passed by California voters and is designed to expand and transform California's county mental health service systems.
Neurologist	A neurologist is a medical doctor who has trained in the diagnosis and treatment of nervous system disorders, including diseases of the brain, spinal cord, nerves and muscles.
Occupational Therapy / Therapist	Occupational Therapists (OT) work with children on the functional use of their hands (i.e. writing) and mouth (i.e. chewing) as well as on sensory issues. They help children develop and improve their skills.
Pathways	Pathways is the name of the data system that Help Me Grow Alameda County uses to collect information about the work that we do.
PDD NOS Pervasive Developmental Delay Not Otherwise Specified	Pervasive Developmental Delay Not Otherwise Specified. This is a diagnosis that was used for significant and ongoing impairments in the development of social interaction or verbal and nonverbal communication skills, or when stereotyped behavior, interests, and activities are present, but the criteria are not met for a specific PDD. Not as frequently used since 2013.
Physical Therapy / Therapist	Physical therapists (PT) work with children on the functional use of their bodies, particularly their large (or gross) motor skills. They work on issues like walking, climbing stairs and balance to develop and improve these skills.
Prevention	Interventions that reduce the possibility of a child developing a more severe or lifelong disability, mental illness, special health care need or developmental delay.
Promising Practice	A service delivery model that shows signs of becoming a best practice, but has not yet been fully evaluated.
RCEB	Regional Center of the East Bay. A private, non-profit corporation

Regional Center of the East Bay	providing services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities under contract with the California Department of Developmental Services. Administers the Early Start and Lanterman in Alameda/Contra Costa counties. Regional Centers delivers services in both Early Start and Lanterman through funding programs in the community to serve a client. These community programs are ‘vendors’ of the regional center.
R&Rs Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies	Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. The California Department of Education funds R&Rs throughout the state to help parents find child care and to support child care providers. The R&Rs for Alameda County are BANANAS, 4Cs & Child Care Links.
Screening	Screening is a short process designed to determine if a child is on track with key developmental milestones and to identify developmental and/or social-emotional concerns needing further assessment or evaluation from local early intervention (such as Regional Center Early Start), early childhood special education, health, or mental health agencies.
SELPA Special Education Local Plan Area	There are 5 SELPAs in Alameda County- MAC (Mid Alameda County), NRSELPA (North Region), Oakland, Tri Valley and Mission Valley. All school districts belong to a SELPA. SELPAs develop plans to serve the special education needs of children in a particular area. Some SELPAs play roles in dispute resolution and program development.
Service Provider	Individuals, groups, and organizations, including County-operated programs that deliver services to clients and patients
Social Determinants of Health	The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels. The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities - the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries.
Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) / Speech Therapist / Therapy	Speech and Language Pathologists work with children with speech concerns such as not understanding language (receptive language), not being able to produce sounds well (articulation), not being able to interact with peers (pragmatic language) and not being able to use language to make their needs and thoughts known (expressive language).
Special Day Class (SDC)	A special education class which provides services to students with intensive needs that cannot be met by the general education program or other programs. Classes consist of more than 50% of the student's day.
Special Education	Special Education is usually used to refer to services given to children eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

SSA Social Services Agency	Alameda County Social Services Agency is a county agency that administers CalFresh, CalWorks, Medi-Cal enrollment, other income assistance programs, emergency shelter, and child welfare services.
SSI Supplemental Security Income	Supplemental Security Income are benefits paid to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits also are payable to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits.
SSDI Social Security Disability Insurance	Social Security Disability Insurance is a federal insurance program that protects workers who become totally disabled and cannot work for a year or more. SSDI cash benefits are paid to disabled workers who earned enough work credits and worked recently enough to qualify. SSDI also provides cash benefits for eligible family members.
SST Student Study Team	A student study team (SST) is a general education process in schools where a multidisciplinary team review ways to better support a student in general education for academic success.
State	Refers to State of California, its departments and/or agencies
Status 2	Children eligible for regional center services under Lanterman are designated status 2 (usually after age 3).
Strengthening Families	A framework of five protective factors, based on extensive research, to promote optimal child development and strong families. Programs across the country are using this framework in how they deliver services and how they work with the community and families. The five protective factors are (1) Parental Resilience, (2) Social Connections/we all need friends, (3) Concrete Support in Times of Need/we all need help sometimes, (4) Parenting is Part Natural and Part Learned, and (5) Social and Emotional Competence of Children.
System(s) of Care (SOC)	Systems of care is a service delivery approach that builds partnerships to create a broad, integrated process for meeting families' multiple needs. This approach is based on the principles of interagency collaboration; individualized, strengths-based care practices; cultural competence; community-based services; accountability; and full participation of families and youth at all levels of the system. A centralized focus of systems of care is building the infrastructure needed to result in positive and equitable outcomes for children, youth, and families.
Therapeutic Preschool	A preschool setting for children with significant social emotional challenges, usually funded by Medi-Cal or a child's school district.
Threshold Language	The most common languages used in a specific geographic area in addition to the primary language (English). Alameda County has four threshold languages: Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Mandarin.
Title IV-E	Title IV-E - Federal Payments for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance. Federal block grants to states for aid and services to needy families with

	children and child welfare services, including foster care and adoption placement assistance.
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