



The Sterling Rock Falls Clinic/Pediatrics (815) 625-4790

Parent to Parent

Taking Care of your Special Needs Child



There are many stages, emotionally, physically, and mentally, that you go through after you've been told that your child has been diagnosed with a special need.

Usually, the first stage is DENIAL.... you ask yourself WHY ME...WHY US...I did everything the way I should have...what went wrong? Most of the time there is no right or wrong, it just happens. It could be genetic; it could just be a fluke. It doesn't make any difference now.... you have to brush yourself off and move on for your Child's sake.

The second stage is being OVERWHELMED.... you don't understand all the information that the doctors are explaining to you. You don't sleep or eat like you should. To calm yourself and feel more in control, you need to research and find out as much information about the needs of your child as you can. The more you know about the condition the more you'll understand...and be able to communicate the information with your Child's doctors.

The third stage is being ORGANIZATION.... you know now what the situation is with your child...and you have to get organized...with the doctors, the appointments, the insurance, the special needs in the house, additional financial assistance information.

The fourth stage is RELIEF.... You've done all you can do and now you have to just sit back and wait for the next adventure. Since you have been blessed to have a unique child you will be ready for whatever life throws your way.

The fifth stage is.... I'm not real sure. I don't think I've gotten that far, yet. I'll keep you updated.

The most important thing is don't lose sight of the child. Make sure that you give him/her the love, attention, and dedication that they need.

Reference Information...Websites...Telephone Numbers...

WWW.MEDICALHOMEINFO.ORG

WWW.STJUDE.ORG

WWW.CHILDRENSHOSPITAL.NET

WWW.SHRINERSHQ.ORG

WWW.FAMILYCONNECTIONS.ORG

WWW.KIDSHEALTH.ORG

Division of Specialized Care for Children 1-800-382-8569

www.uic.edu/hsc/dsc

Department of Rehabilitation (DORS) 1-815-625-8885

DORS-www.dhs.state.il.us/ors

Shriners Hospital and Clinics 1-800-237-5055



The more you research, the more knowledge you gain!

Medical Home Program

Dr. Iyer's office began The Medical Home Program April 2003. The program is to provide early and accurate identification of infants and young children with special needs. Dr. Iyer and her nursing staff want to educate families about the programs and specialists that are out there to help your child with special needs. The staff has a case coordinator that will help the families schedule appointments and follow-up with the additional doctors and clinics.

Children with special health care needs make up 13% of the population and yet account for 80% of the pediatric health care dollar.

"Children with special health care needs make up 13% of the population"

Every Child Deserves a Medical Home



Benefits of a Medical Home for Families:

- Improve services for Children
- Increase knowledge and skills
- Provides allies to advocate for better services for Children and Families
- Improve the planning process

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