



Infant, Toddler and Family Services

Youth Advocate Program, Inc. (YAP) works with over 19,000 youth and families annually in 23 states and the District of Columbia in over 100 communities. Our programs are community-based and family-driven, with an emphasis on relationships, strengths, and person-centered planning shaped by personal choice, control and self-determination. A key component of our work is promoting awareness and knowledge of developmental disabilities to the broader community to build local capacity to create a more flexible, welcoming and supportive environment for people with differences to live and grow throughout their lifespan.

Our Services

YAP offers services for infants and toddlers who have special needs due to developmental delays or disabilities.

- **Special Instructor**

The Special Instructor provides interventions to stabilize the child by enhancing age-appropriate behavioral adaptations. Instructors support the family as a whole—through training, coaching, modeling, and consultation—to foster greater resilience and predictability in the child’s responses to typical environments of home and community. Specific services may include crisis intervention techniques, immediate behavioral reinforcements, emotional support, time structuring activities and additional psychosocial rehabilitative services.

- **Social Work**

The role of the Social Worker is to identify, mobilize, and coordinate community resources to enable the child and family to receive maximum benefit from early intervention services. Youth Advocate Programs’ Social Workers prepare social or emotional developmental assessments of the child within the family context, provide individual and family group counseling, and assist in defining appropriate skill-building activities with the child and parents. To assure continuity, these supports are provided in both home and community settings.

Obtaining Services

YAP receives referrals from the local MH/MR/EI systems. Individuals receive services based on outcomes identified in their Individual and Family Support Plans.

