Health and Medical Care, and Related Therapeutic Interventions
___ Understand the definitions for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), and why a person should be diagnosed.
___ Learn about treatment options and therapies
___ Sign up for the Autism Waiver
___ Apply to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
___ Investigate Behavior Supports if you need them
___ Schedule regular re-evaluations and medical follow-up to measure progress and identify challenges
___ Develop a system to organize your paperwork
___ Develop a good group of providers and supports that will continue to work with your family on a long term basis

Assistive Technology
___ Learn all you can about Assistive Technology services available
___ Explore financial assistance for Assistive Technology

Education
___ Learn all you can about educational options that are available (Diploma vs Certificate of Completion)
___ Learn about the special education process and IEPs
___ Learn about 504 Plans
___ Determine with your IEP team which state assessment tests are most appropriate for your child
___ Contact your Parents’ Place of Maryland, Partners for Success Family Center, or the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for assistance with school issues, IEP development, school resources
___ Prepare for the transition from elementary to middle school
___ Understand your student’s placement options
___ Address any instances of bullying immediately
___ Understand matters of discipline including suspension and expulsion
___ Get involved with your local Special Education Citizen’s Advisory Committee (SECAC) or the Maryland Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)
___ Explore summer time options
___ Develop a system to organize education records

Social and Relationships
___ Help your child learn about appropriate social skills
___ Teach your child about his/her body and sexuality as age appropriate
___ Develop the recreational and leisure activities that your child enjoys

Safety
___ Teach your child about stranger danger
___ Discuss what is appropriate talk and touch
___ Address wandering and elopement
Funding for Services and Legal Issues
___ Review the “Financial Things Every Parent of a Child with Autism Needs to Know”
___ Sign up for the Autism Waiver
___ Determine if your child is eligible for Social Security Benefits
___ Apply to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
___ Investigate Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)
___ Learn about life planning tools and options
___ Develop a system to organize financial and legal records

Support: Support Groups and Respite
___ Network with others at a support group
___ Identify your support system
___ Take care of yourself, your spouse, your other children
___ Investigate respite care options

Advocacy and Self-Advocacy
___ Learn how to be an advocate for your child
___ Get involved with your local Special Education Citizen’s Advisory Committee (SECAC) or the Maryland Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)
___ Help your child learn self-advocacy skills

For the supporting information and details, visit www.pathfindersforautism.org