Early Intervention
___ Contact your local Infants and Toddlers Program (ages birth – 3)
___ Contact your local Family Support Network (ages birth – 3)
___ Contact your local Child Find office (ages 3-21)
___ Contact your local Preschool Partners (ages 3-5)
___ Refer to Maryland’s Early Childhood Gateway
___ Prepare to transition from Early Intervention Services to the local school system

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
___ 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

Communication Tools
___ Learn all you can about Assistive Technology services available

Education
___ Learn about the special education process and IEPs
___ Learn about 504 Plans (Kindergarten and older)
___ Contact your local Family Support Network
___ Prepare to transition from Early Intervention Services to the local school system
___ Contact your local Preschool Partners
___ Explore daycare and preschool options
___ Understand your student’s placement options
___ Get involved with your local Special Education Citizen’s Advisory Committee (SECAC) or the Maryland Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)
___ Develop a system to organize education records

Social and Relationships
___ Help your child learn about appropriate social skills
___ 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
___ Explore daycare options
___ Take care of yourself, your spouse, your other children
___ Investigate respite care options

Advocacy
___ Learn how to be an advocate for your child

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