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## Meet our ADEP Team

### Developmental Specialists

**Sonja Byers**

**Nancy Coleman**

**Heather Hess**

### Early Intervention Supervisor

**Debbie Peck**

### Physical Therapist—Adrienne Nagy

### Speech/Language Pathologist —

**Ginger O’Conner**

### Washington County

### Early Intervention

### Service Coordinators

**Andrea Nichols**

**Liz VanPelt**

### Morgan County

### Early Intervention Service

**Coordinator**

**Judy Kuntz**

### Developmental Specialist

**Angie Kobelt**

The Washington / Morgan County  
Board of  
Developmental Disabilities  
&  
Ohio Early Intervention

## ADEP

## Autism Diagnosis Education Project



**“Engaging Children  
for a Lifetime”**

## What is ADEP?

ADEP (Autism Diagnosis Education Project) offers a local process for parents to obtain a timely diagnosis for their child so that the child can receive early intervention and supports and services as quickly as possible.

The ADEP partnership increases early and timely access to an evaluation for children showing concerns in language and social development, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

**1 in 68 children  
are diagnosed  
with autism  
every year**



## Why is early detection important?

The average length of time between parents' initial concern about their child and receiving a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can be as long as two years in Ohio. In other states it is as high as four or more years. Several factors account for this delay:

- Physicians taking a "wait-and-see" attitude
- Parents waiting to take action
- Waiting lists at diagnostic centers

Valuable time is lost when a diagnosis is delayed; so the sooner a family receives a diagnosis, the sooner they can act on the newfound knowledge and help their child.

## How does ADEP work?

ADEP links local service providers and physicians to ensure a comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation of a child.

A comprehensive evaluation should include the following:

- Health, developmental, and behavioral histories
- Physical examination
- Developmental, psychoeducational evaluation
- Determination of a diagnosis (including the use of standardized tools) needed for early intervention services
- Assessment of the family's knowledge of ASD, challenges, coping skills, and resources/supports

## Who is involved?

The entire process happens locally; families do not have to drive hours to regional pediatric centers to get the answers they need. Instead, they interact with service providers and doctors in their home communities.

## ADEP Team

Our Team of professionals range from 5 to 35+ years of service to children and families. Several team members are on state committees, providing their time and effort to ensure the most current trends, technology and legislation are pursued. We strive to provide the "Best Practice" of services to children and families in our communities utilizing "evidence-based practices".

## How does the team make a diagnosis?

The image below outlines how a child may receive a diagnosis through this process.

