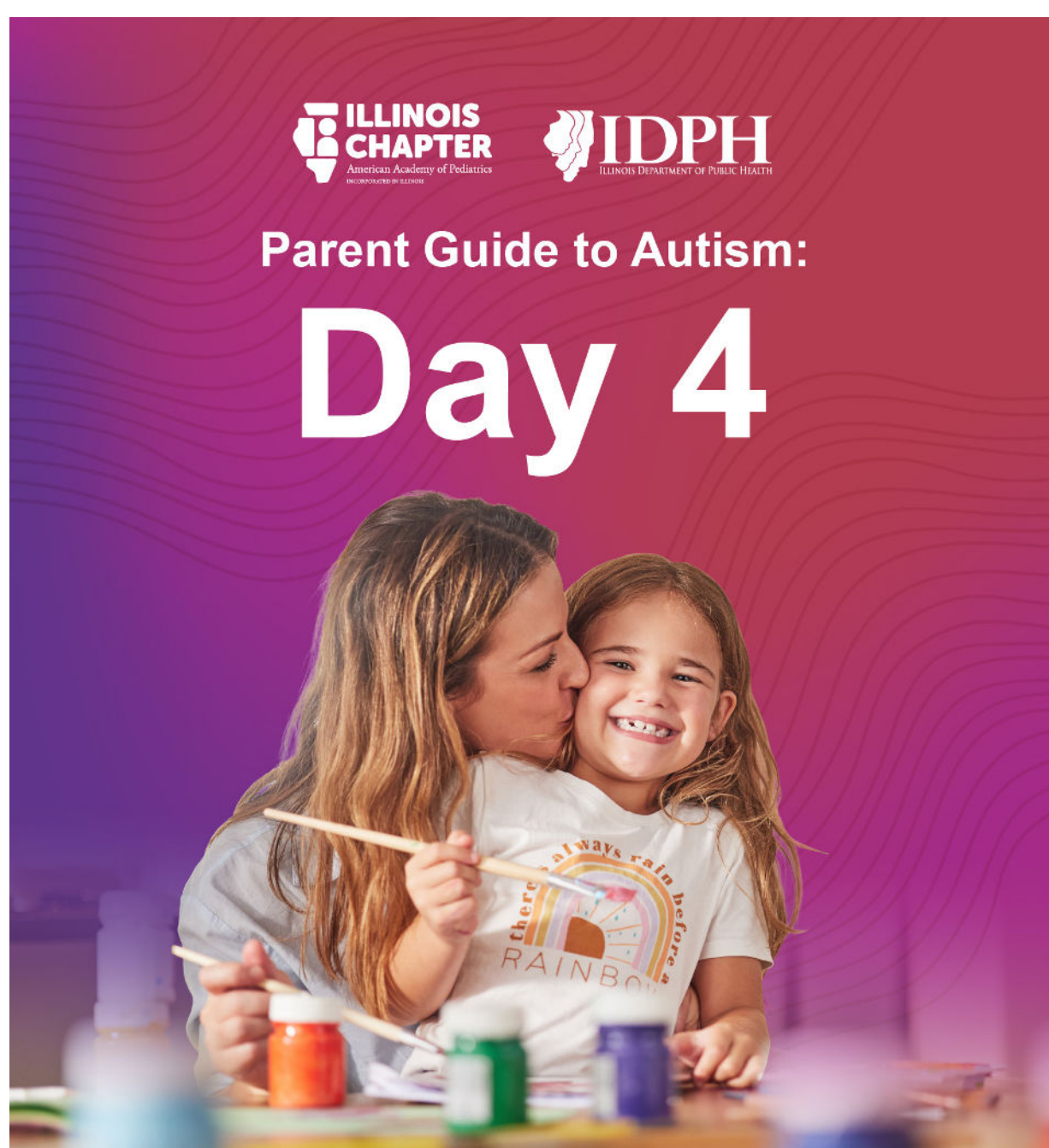


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Parent Guide to Autism:

Day 4

Welcome back, <<First Name>>!

Practical Tips for Learning, Communicating and Daily Life

Taking Action to Support Your Child

During and after – and even before – a diagnosis, there are ways to help your child's growth and development:

Accessing Early Support Programs

- **If your child is under 3**, reach out to Illinois' [Early Intervention](#) program; this is a website that goes into information about getting a [referral into Early Intervention](#).
- **If your child is 3 or older**, check with your school district about special education and Head Start services.

Therapies That Can Help

Consider therapies tailored to your child's needs:

- Speech therapy helps with communication skills and language development
- Occupational therapy supports daily living skills, sensory needs, and play

If you are concerned about any developmental delays in your child, reach out to your pediatrician at any time. You can also fill out a request for the Early Intervention program to get additional support (see above).

Other Important Steps



Get your child's hearing tested. Some communication delays can happen because of hearing difficulties, so it's important to rule this out. You can schedule your child's test by requesting a referral for Audiology from their pediatrician!



Let your child play, especially in ways they choose, and give them opportunities to interact with peers. Taking your child to the park, library, or even enrolling your child into daycare will help them develop social skills. Even a little peer play helps with communication and social skills.

Helpful Resources:

Learn more about early intervention and support programs:

- [What is Early Intervention?](#) – Overview of early intervention services for young children
- [Illinois Early Intervention Program](#) – Information about Illinois' program for children under 3
- [Getting a Referral to Early Intervention](#) – Steps to access services in Illinois
- [Illinois Cares for Kids: Preschool](#) – Resources for preschool-aged children
- [Special Education Assessment for Preschool-Aged Children](#) – Guide to referrals and getting started

Learn more about therapy options:

- [Speech and Language Therapy for Children with Autism](#) – What happens in speech therapy
- [Occupational Therapy](#) – What happens in occupational therapy

Tomorrow we'll discuss Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and how they can support your child's learning. You're already taking important steps, keep going!

With care,

The ICAAP Team

Get Connected!



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