

Understanding How the Autism Waiver Works...

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) issues a Plan of Care (POC) document for each child on the Autism Waiver. The POC dictates how many hours of each service a child has been awarded. Note: Services can be split among agencies, so The League may not always be assigned all of the child's hours. Your service coordinator will provide you with detailed information about the service hours that are awarded to your child.

The following are services that a child could receive under the Autism Waiver:

- **ITI** = up to 15 hours per week
 - 1:1 staffing ratio
 - Must be at least 1 hour per day
 - Cannot be more than 6 hours per day
 - ❖ If a child attends TI for less than 1 hour, the only option is to bill as Respite (which also requires 1:1 staffing)
- **TI** = up to 20 hours per week
 - 1:3 staffing ratio
 - Must be at least 1 hour per day
 - Cannot be more than 6 hours per day
 - ❖ If a child attends TI for less than 1 hour, the only option is to bill as Respite (which requires 1:1 staffing)
- **IISS** = up to 25 hours per week
 - 1:1 staffing ratio
 - 8 hours per day max
 - Provided in the home and/or community settings.
- **Respite** = up to 336 hours per calendar year
 - 1:1 staffing ratio
 - The only service that is not goal-oriented. Progress notes/Daily Logs simply need to document the times that service was provided, along with a brief summary of what occurred.
- **Family Consultation** = up to 40 hours per calendar year
 - Family Consultants meet 1:1 with parents/caregivers to help teach strategies that they can implement in the home and/or community to better assist their child's development.
 - ❖ Providing resources, connecting families with ancillary services, monitoring/discussing progress towards goals, etc.)
 - 3 hours max. per date of service
 - Family Consultants also complete required "observations" of Support Counselors in the field.

Always remember, our role is to help families get the most out of their Waiver services. Management and Family Consultants will actively work with families to discuss their levels of satisfaction, monitor changing needs, and offer options to maximize the amount of support that each child/family can receive.