



The Good Process

Parents of children with autism have to make many decisions concerning various matters to ensure that their child has the best possible surroundings to develop. In addition, it can be difficult to figure out how the public system works, and who provides for the different services.

The fact is that all children have the right to the public services, which includes health services, daycares, public schools, leisure activities and so on. However, children with special needs often have an extra support system besides the normal services to ensure equal access. The process for parents of children with autism to ensure that their child has the best surroundings to develop is often complicated and is a weight on their shoulders.

Due to this, the Autism Association has emphasized this concern many times and the association together with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health and the Interior, the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality Association has worked on a project to find a solution. The expressed purpose of the project is to arrange for a good process for parents with children who have autism. This project has blossomed into a recommendation called the Good Process. The recommendation is divided into four periods of time, which reflects the process for a family, who has a child with autism and functions as a guideline for parents.

The first period is called **'When there is an indication of autism'**, and here the parents are given advice to what they can do, and who they can turn to. It states for example that the parents should as the first step contact their general practitioner, the child's school or daycare. The next step is for the general practitioner, the school or the daycare to contact the special center, where they evaluate the child.

The next period is **'When the diagnosis autism is stated'**, where a team of specialists from various institutions is arranged for the child with autism and a plan is made. The parents and relatives are also offered counselling.

The third period is **'When the child starts school'**. During this period the school arrangement for the child with autism is specified and a plan is made to ensure that the child is provided the best suited education, which suits its needs.

The last period is called **'From teenage years to adulthood'**, which states what should happen when the child is finished with school. Here it is suggested that the child or now adult with autism is offered a work arrangement, and in addition to this, it is necessary to make a plan for living arrangements for the adult with autism.

Lastly, the recommendation contemplates specialist challenges and financial consequences, which can be an outcome when implementing 'The Good Process'.