



**ABILITIES FIRST**  
ENRICHING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN  
& ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **ABILITIES FIRST EXPANDS SERVICES TO INCLUDE EARLY INTERVENTION**

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (September 9, 2019) – Abilities First, Inc. announces the return of Early Intervention (EI) to its spectrum of services for children with developmental delays or disabilities. Since 1962, the organization has built a respected reputation in the Hudson Valley for providing a wide range of services including education, residential, habilitation and family support services from birth through life.

Parents who may have concerns that their child has a developmental delay or has not met developmental milestones should call Dutchess County Early Intervention at (845) 486-3518 for an evaluation. Should a child be deemed eligible for Early Intervention services, Abilities First can assist families in developing and maintaining a child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This may include providing infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities, such as Autism or a diagnosed physical or mental condition including delays in communication and feeding, with a team of dedicated staff to provide speech/language, physical, and occupational therapy to enhance their development. Abilities First will be providing EI services to families throughout Dutchess, Ulster and Orange Counties, with plans to expand to Putnam and Westchester.

“For young children experiencing developmental delay, Early Intervention is absolutely essential for ensuring long-term success in life. We are extremely pleased to add this highly valuable service to our continuum of supports,” explains Abilities First President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Jeffery Fox.

Those interested in Early Intervention Services should contact Patricia Lucio-Penn, Early Intervention Coordinator, at (845) 485-3066.

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### **About Abilities First**

Founded in 1962, Abilities First is a nonprofit organization serving the needs of those with developmental disabilities from pre-school through adulthood. With more than 650 dedicated employees committed to providing educational, vocational, residential, habilitation and family support services, Abilities First gives individuals with disabilities and their families the support to attain independence, self-determination, integration and acceptance by others. In serving over



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1,400 children and adults throughout the Hudson Valley region of New York State, Abilities First holds a long-term commitment to creating a cohesive culture of compassion, empowerment and respect for these individuals through education, exploration and experience. Abilities First is accredited for person-centered care by the Council on Quality and Leadership. For more information, visit [www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org](http://www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org) or on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc](https://www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc).