

How a Child with Autism Can Qualify for Social Security Disability Benefits

According to the CDC as many as 1 in 9 children are born with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Kids who have severe symptoms or have severe limitations due to Autism Spectrum Disorder may be eligible to receive benefits from the Social Security Administration. That money can be used by their parents to help pay for living expenses, educational expenses, home care, and other help that the child needs that isn't covered by insurance. The [Social Security Administration](#) created the Supplemental Security Income program to help low income parent care for kids who have conditions or disabilities that require a significant amount of care.

Qualifying For Benefits Due To Autism

The SSA has a listing of all of the conditions that children can have that make them eligible for SSI benefits. It's called the [Blue Book](#). Each condition that is listed in the Blue Book also has a specific set of requirements that must be met before that child is eligible for benefits. That means that parents will have to submit [medical documentation](#) with the child's application for benefits. In order for a child to qualify for SSI benefits because of Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder the child must meet both of these requirements by having:

- Qualitative deficits in verbal communication, nonverbal communication, and social interaction; and
- Significantly restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities.

In addition to those two requirements the child must also have an extreme limitation in one of the following or marked limitation of two of the following areas:

- Understanding, remembering, or applying information
- Interacting with others
- Concentrating, persisting, or maintaining pace
- Adapting or managing oneself

In order to prove that the child meets these requirements parents can submit a doctor's diagnosis and medical tests, medical treatment information, statements and assessments from case workers and child psychologists, statements from family member and statements from teachers who can talk about the child's behavior and how it is impacted by Autism. Once the child's medical documentation is gathered parents will have to get their own financial information together so that they can meet the financial requirement.

Financial Requirements To Get SSI Benefits For A Child

Supplemental Security Income was created to help families that struggle financially. Because of that, parents trying to get SSI benefits for a child will need to show that their total household income falls below an [income cap](#) set by the SSA. The cap changes based on the number of working adults in the household so most parents have no problems qualifying financially to get SSI for their sick or disable child. But, you will need to submit either a W-2 or Federal tax returns as proof of income in order for your child to be eligible but receive SSI benefits.

Starting The Application Process

You can start the application process by calling your [local SSA office](#) to make an appointment. Bring the child's medical records and your financial documentation to the appointment and a staff member at the SSA will help you fill out and file the claim for SSI benefits for your child.

Resources:

SSA: <https://www.ssa.gov/>

Blue Book <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm>

Medical Resources: <https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/glossary/acceptable-medical-source>

Income Cap: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-child-ussi.htm>

SSA Offices: <https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/state-social-security-disability>