

# LEARNING THE LANGUAGE

## A Guide to Common Acronyms for Developmental Disabilities

**Bureaucratic shorthand** – you’ll hear a lot of it in the developmental disability community. It will come from people working in state and federal agencies, and you’ll hear it when talking with service providers, individuals with disabilities and others in the community.

It’s one of the more important aspects of your education as a person with an interest in developmental disability – “learning the language.”

### What Is “Bureaucratic Shorthand”?

It’s the abbreviated terms (called “acronyms”) used

frequently by those who work with people with developmental disabilities. GCDD, for example, is the term we use in Arkansas when referring to the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities. It’s one of the more than 100 commonly used forms of bureaucratic shorthand you’ll find in this guide. Be aware: you’ll run into many others.

### Why Do All of This?

The same abbreviation can mean different things to different people. Learning the ABCs of developmental disabilities is critical to formulating the right questions to get the right answers.

If you run across a bureaucratic shorthand term that is not in this guide:

- Explain to the person you’re talking with that you do not understand what the abbreviation means.
- Write the abbreviation down.
- Ask the person for an exact definition.
- Write the definition down.
- Practice using the abbreviation in conversation.
- Let GCDD staff know so that we may include it in the next update of this guide.

# Acronyms Associated with Developmental Disabilities

**AAIDD** – American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

**AAPD** – American Association of People with Disabilities

**ABA** – Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, or Applied Behavior Analysis

**ACB** – American Council of the Blind

▪ **ACF** – Administration for Children and Families

▪ **ACL** – Administration for Community Living

**ACS** – Alternative Community Services

**ADA** – Americans with Disabilities Act

**ADAAG** – Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines

+ **ADC** – Arkansas Department of Commerce

**ADD** – Attention Deficit Disorder

+ **ADE** – Arkansas Department of Education

+ **ADEM** – Arkansas Division of Emergency Management

+ **ADH** – Arkansas Department of Health

**ADHD** – Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

**ADRC** – Aging & Disability Resource Centers

**AFB** – American Foundation or Federation for the Blind

**AICC** – Arkansas Interagency Coordinating Council

▪ **AoD** – Administration on Disabilities

**APRIL** – Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living

+ **APS** – Adult Protective Services

**APSE** – Association of People Supporting Employment First

+ **ARS** – Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

**ARSILC** – Arkansas State Independent Living Council

**ASA** – Autism Society of America

**ASD** – Autism Spectrum Disorders

**AT** – Assistive Technology

▪ **ATBCB** – Architecture and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board

**AUCD** – Association of University Centers on Disabilities

**AWA** – Arkansas Waiver Association

**AWIN** – Arkansas Work Incentive Network

**BIAA** – Brain Injury Association of America

**BP** – Benefits Planning

**CAC** – Community Advisory Committee

**CAP** – Client Assistance Program

**CBA** – Community Based Assessment

**CBO** – Community Based Organization

**CCD** – Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities

**CD** – Communication Disorder

▪ **CDC** – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**CDE** – Campaign for Disability Employment

**CDR** – Continuing Disability Review

**CEC** – Council for Exceptional Children

**CF** – Cystic Fibrosis

**CFR** – Code of Federal Regulations

**CHIP** – Children’s Health Insurance Program

**CIE** – Competitive Integrated Employment

**CIL** – Center(s) for Independent Living

▪ **CMS** – Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**CP** – Cerebral Palsy

**CPS** – Child Protective Services

**CRC** – Certified Rehabilitation Counselor

**CRP** – Community Rehabilitation Program

**CSHCN** – Children with Special Health Care Needs

+ **DAABHS** – Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services

**DD** – Developmental Disabilities or Developmentally Delayed

**DD Act** – The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act

**DDPA** – Arkansas Developmental Disabilities Provider Association

+ **DDS** – Division of Developmental Disabilities Services

**DDTCS** – Developmental Day Treatment Clinic Services

+ **DFA** – Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration

+ **DHS** – Arkansas Department of Human Services

▪ **DOJ** – U.S. Department of Justice

▪ **DOL** – U.S. Department of Labor

**DP** – Direct Placement

+ **DPSQA** – Division of Provider Services and Quality Assurance

**DRA** – Disability Rights Arkansas

**DS** – Down Syndrome

**DSP** – Direct Support Professional

**EARN** – Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion

**EC** – Early Childhood

▪ **ED** – U.S. Department of Education

▪ **EEOC** – Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

**EI** – Early Intervention

**EPE** – Extended Period of Eligibility

**EPSDT** – Early Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment

**ESES** – Extended Supported Employment Services

**ESSA** – Every Student Succeeds Act

**ESY** – Extended School Year for Special Education Services

**EWE** – Extended Work Experience

**EXR** – Expedited Reinstatement of Benefits

**F2F** – Family to Family

**FAPE** – Free and Appropriate Public Education

**FAS** – Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

**FBA** – Functional Behavioral Assessment

**FBR** – Federal Benefit Rate

**FC** – Facilitated Communication

**FERPA** – Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

**FOIA** – Freedom of Information Act

**FPL** – Federal Poverty Level

+ **GCDD** – Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities

**GIE** – General Income Exclusion

**HASCI** – Head and Spinal Cord Injury

**HCBS** – Home and Community Based Services

**HDC** – Human Development Center

▪ **HHS** – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**HI** – Hearing Impaired

**HIPAA** – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

**HMO** – Health Maintenance Organization

**HRSA** – Health Resources and Services Administration

**HSRI** – Human Services Research Institute

▪ **HUD** – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**IAP** – Individualized Accommodation Plan

**iCAN** – Increasing Capabilities Access Network

**ICF** – Intermediate Care Facility

**ID/DD** – Intellectual Disability/ Developmental Disability

# Acronyms Associated with Developmental Disabilities

**IDEA** – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

**IEE** – Independent Educational Evaluation

**IEP** – Individual Education Plan / Program

**IFSP** – Individual Family Service Plan

**IHE** – Institutions of Higher Education

**IHP** – Individualized Habilitation Plan

**IL** – Independent Living

**ILC** – Independent Living Center

**ILS** – Independent Living Services

**IPE** – Individual Plan for Employment

**IPII** – Independence, Productivity, Integration, Inclusion

**I&R** – Information and Referral

**ISP** – Individualized Service Plan

**ITACC** – Information & TA Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities

**JAN** – Job Accommodation Network

**JC** – Job Coach

**LD** – Learning Disability

**LEA** – Local Education Agency

**LEAD** – Leadership for the Employment and Economic Advancement of PWD

**LEND** – Leadership in Neurodevelopment and Related Disabilities

**LICC** – Local Interagency Coordinating Council

**LRE** – Least Restrictive Environment

**LS** – Life Skills

**LSW** – Licensed Social Worker

**LTSS** – Long Term Supports and Services

**MCH** – Maternal and Child Health

**MD** – Muscular Dystrophy

**MDET** – Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team

**MH** – Mental Health

**MI** – Mental Illness

**MS** – Multiple Sclerosis

**NACDD** – National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

**NAMI** – National Alliance on Mental Illness

**NCD** – National Council on Disability

**NCIL** – National Council on Independent Living

**NCLB** – No Child Left Behind Act (now ESSA)

**NDRN** – National Disability Rights Network

**NIDRR** – National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

**NIH** – National Institutes for Health

**NLD** – Nonverbal Learning Disability

**NOD** – National Organization on Disability

- **OCR** – Office of Civil Rights

- **ODEP** – Office of Disability Employment Policy

- **OIDD** – Office on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- **OSEP** – Office of Special Education Programs

- **OSERS** – Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services

**OT** – Occupational Therapy (or Therapist)

**P&A** – Protection and Advocacy

**PAIR** – Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights

**PAS** – Personal Assistance Services

**PASS** – Plan to Achieve Self-Support

**PASSE** – Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity

**PCA** – Personal Care Attendant

**PDD** – Pervasive Developmental Disorder

**PEAT** – Partnership on Employment and Accessible Technology

**PL** – Public Law

**PL106-402** – The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act

**PPC** – Pediatric Pulmonary Center

**PSC** – Program Support Center

**PSS** – Peer Support Services/Specialist

**PT** – Physical Therapy (or Therapist)

**PTI** – Parent Training and Information Centers

**PwD** – Persons With Disabilities

**PWoD** – Persons Without Disabilities

- **RSA** – Rehabilitation Services Administration

**RRTC** – Rehabilitation Research and Training Center

**SABE** – Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

**SAME** – State Agency as a Model Employer

**SAW/RTW** – Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work

**SCI** – Spinal Cord Injury

**SE** – Supported Employment

**SEA** – State Education Agency

**SFC** – Specialized Family Care

**SGA** – Substantial Gainful Activity

**SILC** – Statewide Independent Living Council

**SLT** – Speech/Language Therapy/Therapist

**SNAP** – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

**SPIL** – State Plan for Independent Living

- **SSA** – Social Security Administration

**SSDI** – Social Security Disability Insurance

**SSI** – Supplemental Security Income

**ST** – Speech Therapy

**SWD** – Students With Disabilities

**TA** – Technical Assistance

**TANF** – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

**TBI** – Traumatic Brain Injury

**TEFRA** – Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act

**Title II** – Section of the SSA Act dealing with SSDI

**Title V** – Section of the SSA Act dealing with Maternal and Child Health

**Title XIV** – Section of the SSA Act dealing with SSI

**Title XIX** – Section of the SSA Act dealing with Medicaid

**TPR** – Timely Progress Review

**TT** – Text Telephone

**TTW** – Ticket To Work

**TTY** – Text Telephone

**TWE** – Trial Work Experience (DRS)

**TWP** – Trial Work Period

**UCP** – United Cerebral Palsy

- + **UCEDD** – University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

**U.S.C.** – United States Code

- **VA** – Veterans Administration

**VI** – Visually Impaired

**VR** – Vocational Rehabilitation

- + **WIC** – Women, Infants and Children

**WI** – Work Incentives

**WIOA** – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

**YT** – Youth Transition

▪ Federal Agencies

+ State Agencies



Governor's Council on  
**Developmental Disabilities**  
ARKANSAS

*Inclusion. Integration. Independence.*

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