

Early Intervention Proposal Assisting Special Needs Children and Empowering Families

Ashraf Abd ElGhafar Saad

Step Up Therapy Services, PLLC, USA

A recent study in the Middle East found that 5-10 percent of children under 18 years old had at least one type of disability, with the most common being speech, motor, and mental disabilities. Our mission is to help these children and their families get the help they need, in order for the children to grow up and function normally in society. The first step in this process is to enroll the child in the program, and a number of people have a role in doing this. The child's parents and teachers must take the appropriate action if they notice the child has a delay or are concerned about anything in the child's behavior. A service coordinator will sit with the family and evaluate their needs. The child will then be evaluated by a number of therapists, including speech therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and psychologists. Once a child is determined to be eligible for services, a committee will come up with an individual therapy plan based on the child and the family's needs. This plan is reviewed and updated every year based on the child's development and improvement. With the support system this program provides, we can help our children reach their full potential.

Ashraf Abdelghafar Saad is a Doctor of Pediatric Rehabilitation he graduated from Cairo University School of Medicine, department of Physical Therapy with a bachelor's degree in 1989. He worked in Cairo University Hospital until 1996, and then he moved to the United States of America. He completed master's degree in physical therapy from Rocky Mountain University. He provided services including physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychotherapy, vision, hearing aids, social workers, special instructors, and evaluations for more than 1200 children every year. In 2008, New York State provided me with an opportunity to run a 4410 program for children 3-5 years of age. Our mission was to continue to work with and provide services for underserved children in the Middle East and in impoverished areas in the State. Currently, he is founder and owner of Step Up Therapy Services.

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***Corresponding author:** Ashraf Abd ElGhafar Saad, Step Up Therapy Services, PLLC, USA; Email: contact@azahw.com

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