

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Resources - Toronto

Revised November 2019

Online Information

Autism Ontario - www.autismontario.com

Access to the "Education Portal" with articles and webinars on topics such as school, advocacy, transitions, interventions etc.

Autism Speaks - www.autismspeaks.org

Informational tool kits on topics such as Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), toilet training, sleeping strategies, advocacy etc.

Geneva Centre for Autism - www.elearning.autism.net/en

Webinars on topics such as communication, sensory, visuals, behaviour etc.

Connectability - www.connectability.ca

Articles in different languages, educational videos and free downloadable visuals.

AboutKidsHealth (SickKids) - www.aboutkidshealth.ca

Health information on different health topics in multiple languages.

Parentbooks Bookstore - www.parentbooks.ca

A wide range of books for caregivers and children with special needs.

Funding - ASD

Ontario Autism Program (OAP)

Telephone: 1-888-444-4530 E-mail: oap@ontario.ca

Website: www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program

A "Childhood Budget" to families who have a child with a diagnosis of ASD under 18 years old. Budget can be used to access services such as ABA therapy, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, caregiver training, respite, technology aids etc.

- For assistance to complete OAP forms and/or guidance on how to use your budget contact:
Autism Ontario – Service Navigation: Telephone: 1-800-472-7789 ext. 340
Website: www.autismontario.com/programs-services/under-18/service-navigation

Community-Based Agencies - ASD

Geneva Centre for Autism

Telephone: 416-322-7877 ext. 513 Website: www.autism.net

Social work support, support groups and education workshops on topics such as behaviour, eating strategies, sleep strategies etc. Fee-for-service programs including skill building groups, respite programs, camps, behaviour consultation, speech-language consultation etc.

Kerry's Place Autism Services

Telephone: 416-537-2000 Website: www.kerrysplace.org/support-and-services/toronto-region

Family resource centre, caregiver consultations, teen social skills groups, music and swim programs etc. Most programs are geared towards youth and adults.

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

150 Kilgour Road, Toronto ON Canada M4G 1R8

T 416 425 6220 T 800 363 2440 F 416 425 6591 www.hollandbloorview.ca

A teaching hospital fully affiliated with the University of Toronto

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Caregiver Support and Education

Autism Ontario

Telephone: 1-800-472-7789 ext. 340 Website: www.autismontario.com/chapters/toronto
www.autismontario.com/programs-services/under-18/service-navigation ("Service Navigation")
 Education workshops, community events and support groups. Assistance to find local services and support families accessing the Ontario Autism Program (OAP).

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Telephone: 416-425-6220 Website: www.hollandbloorview.ca
 Education workshops on topics such as interventions, school, advocacy, completing funding forms etc. Parent support groups and the Family Mentor Program are offered through the Family Resource Centre.

Surrey Place – Wellness Program

Telephone: 1-833-575-5437
 Website: www.surreyplace.ca/education-and-training-wellness-2/
 Education workshops on topics such as interventions, respite, how to fill out funding forms etc. across Toronto.

Extend-A-Family

Telephone: 416-484-1317 Website: www.extendafamily.ca
 Caregiver support groups across Toronto.

Woodgreen

Telephone: 416-645-6000 ext. 1311 Website: www.woodgreen.org
 Caregiver support groups across Toronto and home visiting program called the "Parent Outreach Program".

Please refer to Connectability for a more extensive list of support groups. www.connectability.ca

Sibling Support Groups

Young Carers Program

Telephone: 416-364-1666 Website: www.ycptoronto.com
 Therapeutic and recreational programs to children under 18 years old who have a sibling with special needs.

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Telephone: 416-425-6220 Website: www.hollandbloorview.ca
 Monthly sibling support group for children 7-18 years old who have a sibling with special needs.

Respite

Respiteservices.com

Telephone: 416-322-6317 ext. 1 Website: www.respiteservices.com
 Support to families to find respite workers, respite programs, recreation and camps across Toronto. Assist families to complete provincial funding forms.

Community-Based Agencies - Preschool Services

Toronto Public Health - Early Abilities

Telephone: 416-338-8255 Website: www.toronto.ca/speech-and-language

Speech and language services for children up to school age in various locations across Toronto. Educational resources available on website.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

Website: www.ontario.ca/page/find-earlyon-child-and-family-centre

Free drop-in and registered caregiver and child programs in various locations across Toronto for children up to 6 years old. Some centres offer a specialized program called "Let's Get Started" for children with delays in development (416-920-6543).

Surrey Place – Infancy and Early Childhood Program

Telephone: 1-833-575-5437

Website: www.surreyplace.ca/programs-services/developmental-disabilities/infancy-and-early-childhood-program

In-home support to caregivers who have a child with developmental support needs. This program is for children who are not enrolled in daycare or school.

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital – Infant Development Program

Telephone: 416-782-1105

Website: www.hollandbloorview.ca/services/programs-services/early-learning-and-development-infant-development-program

In-home support to caregivers who have a child with developmental support needs. This program is for children who are not enrolled in daycare or school.

Centennial Infant and Child Centre – Early Intervention Program

Telephone: 416-935-0200 Website: www.cicc.ca/early-intervention

In-home support to caregivers who have a child with developmental support needs. This program is for children who are not enrolled in daycare or school.

Toronto Public Health - Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program

Telephone: 416-338-7600

Website: www.toronto.ca/healthy-babies-healthy-children-hbhc-program

In-home support from a nurse and/or home visitor. This program is for children under 3 years old and home visitors may speak various languages.

Childcare

Toronto Children's Services

Telephone: 416-338-8888 ext. 2 Website: www.toronto.ca/licensed-child-care

E-mail: kidslines@toronto.ca Fax: 416-392-3347

A childcare locator to help families find a licensed childcare centre. Once registered in a childcare centre, a resource consultant may be available to provide guidance to childcare staff on how to support a child's needs within the program. Speak with the childcare supervisor/director about accessing this service.

- **Child Care Fee Subsidy**

Financial assistance may be available to help families with the cost of childcare. The subsidy is based on family income. Complete the subsidy calculator online or call to determine eligibility. Once application for subsidy is complete fax or e-mail written confirmation of child's diagnosis to assist with application process.

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School

Special Education Program Placement and Recommendation Committee (SEPRC)

A committee made up of school staff that meet with caregivers before Junior Kindergarten entry to determine whether or not an intensive support special education program (ISP) would be appropriate. Caregivers can request a SEPRC at time of Kindergarten registration.

School Support Team (SST)

A committee made up of school staff and special education professionals. During the SST meeting, student strengths and needs are discussed and a plan to support the student is developed. A plan may include recommendation for an IEP and/or referrals to professionals for further assessment, consultation or intervention.

Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

A written plan that describes special education programs and/or services for a student. It is based on a student's profile of strengths and needs. IEP is developed in consultation with staff, caregivers and student, where appropriate. Caregivers can consult with the teacher to create an IEP.

Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC)

A committee made up of school staff and special education professionals. The committee determines the type of "exceptionality" (special need) for a student and suggests an appropriate program or setting for the student. This could mean providing help in the regular class with extra resources, or withdrawing the student to a special education class for part or all of the school day. IPRC meetings take place at least once a year. Caregivers can request an IPRC through the school's principal.

Ministry of Education - www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-education

Autism Ontario - www.autismontario.com (Education Portal)

Toronto District School Board - www.tdsb.on.ca

Toronto Catholic District School Board - www.tcdsb.org

Recreational Programs

Toronto Parks and Recreation

Program Information and Registration

Telephone: 416-396-7378 Website: www.toronto.ca/recreation www.toronto.ca/funguide

Seasonal recreational programs and camps. Find a program using the "Fun Guide". One can register online, by phone or in person. A Family Account Number is needed to register.

Welcome Policy

Telephone: 416-338-8888 ext. 3 Website: www.toronto.ca/free-lower-cost-recreation-options

Financial assistance may be available to assist with the cost of Parks and Recreation programs. Eligibility is based on family income. Application form is available online or call to request.

Adapted Programs and Inclusive Services

Telephone: 416-395-6128

Adapted programs and/or additional assistance to an individual within a program to support participation and inclusion.

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Music and Arts Programs

Telephone: 416-425-6220 ext. 3317

Website: www.hollandbloorview.ca/services/programs-services/music-and-arts

Music, visual and performing arts programs for children and youth with special needs.

Aquatic Swim Programs

Telephone: 416-425-6220 ext. 3539 Website: www.hollandbloorview.ca/swim

Swimming programs for swimmers with a disability and their family.

Community Snoezelen Room and Snoezelen Pool

Telephone: 1-800-855-0511 to get Bell Operator. At prompt give 416-422-7049

Website: www.hollandbloorview.ca/snoezelen

Sensory room and a sensory pool with music, lighting effects and tactile sensations.

Robotics

Telephone: 416-425-6220 ext. 3704 Website: www.hollandbloorview.ca/robotics

Robotic LEGO program for children with special needs ages 6-14 years old.

Transitions, Recreation and Life Skills Services

Telephone: 416-425-6220 ext. 6208

Website: www.hollandbloorview.ca/services/programs-services/transitions-recreation-and-life-skills-community-services

Recreation and life skills programs that include individual coaching, skill building groups and workshops for children and youth with a disability over 7 years old.

Variety Village

Telephone: 416-699-7167 Website: www.varietylvillage.ca

Recreation and life skills programs. Facility is located in Scarborough.

My Community Hub

Website: www.mycommunityhub.ca

Online registration space for activities, programs, respite and camps offered across Ontario for children, youth and adults with special needs.

Please refer to Holland Bloorview Toronto Recreation Guide for a more extensive list of recreational programs.
www.hollandbloorview.ca/services/family-workshops-resources/family-resource-centre/online-family-resources-centre/toronto-5

Private Service Directories

OAP Provider List

Website: www.oaproviderlist.ca

Listing of Clinical Supervisors of behavioural services who can develop, implement or supervise ABA programs for children and youth with ASD.

ABACUS

Website: www.abacuslist.ca

Listing of ABA providers and information on how to hire qualified providers.

The Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

Telephone: 416-920-3676 Website: www.osla.on.ca

Listing of Speech-Language Pathologists who are members of their regulatory college.

College Of Occupational Therapists of Ontario

Telephone: 416-214-1177 Website: www.coto.org

Listing of Occupational Therapists who are members of their regulatory college.

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Research

Autism Treatment Network (ATN)

Telephone: 416-925-5141 (Toronto ATN)

Website: www.autismspeaks.ca/science-services-resources/science/autism-treatment-network/

Network of physicians, researchers and families across North America working to improve care for children and youth with ASD through research. This is a partnership between Holland Bloorview, Surrey Place and Sick Kids Hospital.

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital - Autism Research Centre

Telephone: 416-425-6220

Website: www.hollandbloorview.ca/research-education/bloorview-research-institute/research-centres-labs/autism-research-centre

Research programs aimed at improving outcomes and quality of life for children and youth with ASD and their families.

Other Funding

Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

Telephone: 1-800-959-8281 Website: www.canada.ca

Non-refundable tax credit that can reduce the amount of income tax one pays. Children that are eligible must have a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions. One may also qualify for the income based Child Disability Benefit if approved for the DTC. Form must be completed with the assistance of a medical practitioner.

- **Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)**

Long-term savings plan that helps Canadians with disabilities and their families save for the future. One must be eligible for the DTC to open an RDSP through a financial institution.

Special Services at Home (SSAH)

Telephone: 416-325-0500 Website: www.ontario.ca

Annual funding for respite and/or programs that support the personal growth and development of children with special needs under 18 years old. There are no income requirements.

- For assistance to complete the SSAH form contact **respiteservices.com**

Telephone: 416-322-6317 ext. 1 Website: www.respiteservices.com

Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)

Telephone: 416-325-0500 Website: www.ontario.ca

Monthly funding to assist with additional costs associated with having a child with special needs under 18 years old. Gross annual income must be below \$66,000 (approximately) in order to apply. If eligible, financial assistance for prescription drugs, dental and vision care is also provided.

- For assistance to complete the ACSD form contact **respiteservices.com**

Telephone: 416-322-6317 ext. 1 Website: www.respiteservices.com

Easter Seals Ontario - Incontinence Supplies Grant

Telephone: 416-510-5074 Website: www.easterseals.org

Annual grant to assist with the cost of incontinence supplies (e.g. diapers, pull-ups). Children over 3 years old with a disability, who use these supplies during the day may be eligible. Form must be completed with the assistance of a medical practitioner.

Access2 Card

Telephone: 416-932-8382 Website: www.access2card.ca

Free or discounted admission for a support person accompanying an individual with a disability at select movie theatres and attractions across Canada. This application must be completed with the assistance of a health care professional.

TTC Support Person Assistance Card

Telephone: 416-393-3030 Website: www.ttc.ca

Allows fare exemption for a support person accompanying a person with a disability on Toronto public transit. Form must be completed with the assistance of a health care professional.

Holland Bloorview Family Support Fund

Telephone: 416-425-6220 ext. 6303 Website: www.hollandbloorview.ca

Financial support to clients of Holland Bloorview during a time of transition or stress. May support funding for equipment, recreation, respite etc. and decisions are based on family need.

Please refer to the Special Needs Planning Group website for information on financial planning.
www.specialneedsplanning.ca

Dual Diagnosis Resources - Toronto

Community-Based Agencies - Intellectual Disability

Surrey Place

Telephone: 1-833-575-5437 Website: www.surreyplace.ca

Services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families such as service coordination, behaviour consultation, early intervention, speech and language consultation etc.

Community Living Toronto

Phone: 647-426-3220 Website: www.cltoronto.ca

Services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families such as parent and sibling support, behaviour consultation, home management, and respite.

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) – Toronto Region

Telephone: 1-855-372-3858

Website: www.dsotoronto.ca

Assistance to adults with intellectual disabilities and their families to apply for government funded services in their communities. Registration process can begin at 16 years old.

Community-Based Agencies – Learning Disability

Child Development Institute - Integra Program

Telephone: 416-486-8055 Website: www.childdevelop.ca

Services for children with a learning disability between the ages of 8 and 18 and their families. Services can include individual and family counselling, friendship groups, education workshops, and summer camps.

Learning Disabilities Association of Toronto District

Telephone: 416-229-1680 Website: www.ldatd.on.ca

Programs for children and adults with a learning disability and their families. Services can include social skills groups, tutoring, and education workshops.

Community-Based Agencies – Mental Health

What's Up Walk-in Clinic

Website: www.whatsupwalkin.ca

Walk-in mental health counselling at various locations across Toronto for children, youth, young adults and their families. Assist with referrals to longer term services when needed.

Please note that the information provided in this list is not intended as a recommendation or endorsement of services by Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. Resources listed have different eligibility requirements and wait times.

This list was compiled by Holland Bloorview Social Workers in the Communication, Learning and Behaviour Program.

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