

ASD RESOURCE LIST

Multi-Service Agencies

This section includes agencies that provide a broad range of programs and services. These agencies offer a full range of service including parent education and support. All of the agencies accept referrals directly from parents for service.

York Support Services Network

York Support Services Network is a community-based agency that offers a range of case management and community crisis services, to support individuals with a developmental disability and/or a serious mental illness. YSSN also provides services within the Children's Services Sector, offering Children's Case Coordination

For more information contact 905-898-3721 or visit www.yssn.ca

Community Living

Community Living provides a wide range of services for children, youth, and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Services include:

- early childhood supports
- behavioural supports and home management
- sibling support
- respite and recreational opportunities
- career facilitation and planning for youth and adults
- person directed planning
- youth2work

For more information contact Community Living York South 905-884-9110. To find the office that is closest to you visit www.communityliving.ca.

Geneva Centre for Autism

The Geneva Centre for Autism provides support and services for children, youth, and adults with ASD and their families. Families who live outside of Toronto can access **fee** based services, which include:

- Diagnostic Services including psycho-educational assessment
- Social Skills Groups
- Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) assessment and consultation
- Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment and consultation
- Behavioural Assessment and Program Planning

- In-home supervision of Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI) programs
- And other individually designed services.

For more information call 416-322-7877 or visit www.autism.net.

Kerry's Place Autism Services

Kerry's Place Autism Services is an organization committed to improving the quality of life of people with ASD. They provide a number of services for children, teenagers, and adults with ASD and their families throughout their lives. Supports include respite funding, educational workshops, parent support groups, and social groups.

For more information call (905) 713-6808 Ext. 350 or visit www.kerrysplaceautismservices.org.

Behavioural Resources

Autism Intervention Program

IBI

To receive a referral to the Autism Intervention Program, your child must:

- live within the geographic boundaries of the program area
- have a diagnosis from a doctor or psychologist saying your child has autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or a disorder that is considered to be towards the severe end of the autism spectrum

Your child will then be assessed by the staff working with your regional ASD service provider to determine whether intensive behavioural intervention (IBI) services will be offered. The Central East Autism Program (CEAP) provides intensive behavioural intervention (IBI) to children in who York Region, Simcoe County, Durham Region, Four County Area of Peterborough, Northumberland and Haliburton Counties & the city of Kawartha Lakes (formerly Victoria County) who meet the criteria for program eligibility under the Ministry of Children and Youth's guidelines. CEAP also provides transitional support services for children who are phasing out of the program and entering into other community services, including school. Kinark and its service partners provide both home-based and centre-based programs. As well, Kinark has begun to provide a broader array of services and supports to families of children with autism – including parent training both locally and their our Outdoor Centre in Haliburton.

For a more detailed description of this service visit www.kinark.on.ca

Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) – based Services and Supports for Children and Youth with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

ABA

A new array of ABA-based services for children and youth with ASD are collaboratively provided by a group of community agencies in the Central East Region. There is a Lead Agency for each of the region's three geographical areas. For York Region and Simcoe County, the lead agency is Kerry's Place Autism Services. Service is provided to children and youth 0-17 years of age (up to 18th birthday) who have a confirmed ASD diagnosis, including: Autism/Autistic Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Specified (PDD-NOS), Asperger's Disorder . Confirmation of the diagnosis must be provided by a Family Physician, Paediatrician, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, or Psychological Associate.

The ABA-based services and supports will help children and youth with ASD develop skills in the areas of:

- behaviour management/emotional regulation
- communication
- social/interpersonal
- daily Living
- provide education to parents/caregivers on how to apply ABA strategies so they can help their children maintain or generalize these skills
- involve between 2 to 6 months of service depending on the child's or youth's identified needs
- be delivered through individual or group sessions as appropriate

For a more detailed description of this service call **1-866-377-0286** (Children's Treatment Network) or visit <http://www.kinark.on.ca>

Behaviour Management Services of York Region and Simcoe County

Provides behavioural services to individuals living in York Region or Simcoe County who have a developmental disability with a significant cognitive delay or are living with the effects of an acquired brain injury.

Services include:

- Positive-based teaching and programming assistance
- Sexuality Clinic of York and Simcoe
- York Simcoe Brain Injury Services
- Central East Autism Program for York Region and Simcoe County

For more information call (905-773-2362) or email Behaviour.mgmt@bellnet.ca

ABACUS

Autism Ontario's Registry of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Providers

The ABACUS website exists to provide parents, caregivers, and the general community information about applied behavioural analysis (ABA) services in Ontario for individuals with ASD. Visiting this website will help you to understand ABA and agencies that provide this service.

To gather information on how to choose and monitor ABA services, and to search a list for ABA providers in your area who have experience with ASD, visit www.abacuslist.ca.

Financial Support

Government programs

Special Services at Home Program (SSAH)

This is a Ministry of Community and Social Services program that financially assists families of children with a physical disability and/or developmental disability. To be eligible, you must be a resident of Ontario. Your family's income does not affect whether or not you qualify. If approved, the funds are given directly to your family to hire a support worker to help your child in the area of personal development and growth. Funds can also be used to help you pay for respite services. Respite services provide temporary care for your child either in your home or in an outside agency. If you are seeking respite support, it will be your responsibility to find appropriate and qualified workers to hire.

For more information about SSAH, visit www.mcscs.gov.on.ca. To locate your nearest office, call the Toronto office at 416-325-0500.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services manages the funds for Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities. This program provides financial assistance to parents of children with a disability to cover the extraordinary costs of caring for such a child. Your family income as well as your child's level of need are taken into consideration when determining eligibility. Financial assistance is provided on a monthly basis and an Ontario Drug Benefit card will also be provided. There is a detailed application to complete and a worker will visit your home to talk to you about your situation in greater detail.

For more information about this program and to request an application, contact either one of the following Toronto offices: Ministry of Community and Social Services (416-325-0500); Ontario Disability Support Program (416-326-5079/1-888-256-6758); or Ontario Works intake (416-397-0330).

Incontinence Supplies Grant Program, Easter Seal Society

The Incontinence Supplies Grant Program is fully funded through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. It can help with the cost of diapers and other similar supplies for children three to 18 years old. Families receive the money directly. Your child must have a condition that causes a lack of control over the bladder permanently or for longer than six months. A doctor or nurse practitioner must complete the medical section of the form.

For more information, call the program at 416-421-8377, extension 314, or 1-800-668-6252 or visit www.easterseals.org.

Assistive Devices Program (ADP)

This program offers financial assistance for Ontario residents with long-term physical disabilities. Devices are intended to give people increased independence and control. To be eligible for this program, your child must have an Ontario health card and a physical disability for six months or longer. This program will pay up to 75% of the cost of items such as: wheelchairs, mobility aids, hearing aids, respiratory equipment, and visual and communication aids. An assessment to determine what your child needs is done through an ADP authorized practitioner such as an occupational therapist.

For more information call 1-800-268-6021.

The Trillium Drug Program, Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care

The Trillium Drug Program provides medication coverage for Ontario residents who have a valid Ontario health card. If you or your family spend a large part of your earnings on medication, the Trillium Drug Program may be able to help with the costs. Once approved, coverage is for all members in a household. Medications listed in the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary are covered. Families must pay a yearly deductible which is based on household income. Applications are available online or at your drug store. Please note that if you already have a Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) card through Community Care Access Centre, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, or Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities, you will not be able to apply to the Trillium Drug Plan.

For more information, contact 1-800-575-5386 or visit www.gov.on.ca/health. In the Quicksearch box, type "Trillium Drug Program".

Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

The Disability Tax Credit, also known as the Disability Amount, lowers the amount of tax you may owe if your child has severe, long-lasting mental or physical disabilities. The T2201 is an important document which is necessary to complete in order to qualify for the Disability Tax Credit, Caregiver Tax Credit, and other credits. A qualified physician must complete the medical part of the form and verify that your child has a "prolonged impairment" that significantly restricts an activity of daily living. The more detailed information that your doctor can provide on the form, the better this will be for your application. Some important points to remember about this application are:

- This form can be submitted any time of year.
- The "onset of impairment" is the very first date which the impairment began.
- The application can be back-filed (up to 10 years) to correspond with the "onset of impairment" date.

For information and to request a copy of Form T2201, call 1-800-959-2221. For more detailed information, request a copy of Guide RC4064.

Child Disability Benefit

If you have a child who is 18 years of age or younger and you have already qualified for the Disability Tax Credit, you may be eligible for the Child Disability Benefit. This financial benefit helps low to modest income families by providing a monthly payment up to \$199.58 per month. To apply for this program, you must have a signed Disability Tax Credit Certificate (see information above) as well as a completed Canada Child Tax Benefit application form (RC66).

For more information call 1-800-387-1193.

Charitable organizations

Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity

The mission of the Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity is to improve the quality of life for chronically and seriously ill children and their families. The charity considers requests from families who live in Ontario and have a child less than 21 years of age with a child who is seriously ill or has a permanent disability. Your family's gross income must be \$60,000 or less and a Notice of Assessment is required for the application process.

The charity will consider assistance for:

- emergency financial relief
- respite for a pre-determined period
- developmental therapies, excluding applied behaviour analysis (ABA), intensive behavioural intervention (IBI), or a relationship development intervention (RDI)
- educational programs, materials, and instruction
- specially adapted computer equipment and software
- medical treatments not covered by government health plans
- recreation programs in the community

Call 905-852-1799 to request an application or visit www.jenniferashleigh.org.

President Choice Children's Charity

This charity provides financial assistance to families with physically or developmentally challenged children to help cope with the disability. Your child must be 18 years or younger. Your family's income must be \$70,000 or less and a Notice of Assessment is required for the application. PC Children's Charity tends to grant requests for items such as: expensive mobility equipment, environmental modifications, and physical therapy.

For more information call 1-866-996-9918 or email pccharity@loblaw.ca . Applications can be found online at www.presidentschoice.ca.

Family Support and Respite Services

Asperger's Society of Ontario

The Asperger's Society of Ontario provides support to individuals with Asperger syndrome (AS) and their families. Services include: referral to community services, workshops, school support, and consultation. In addition, they run social skills support groups for children eight to 14 years of age. Parents meet for support with each other at the same time.

For more information call 416-651-4037 or visit www.aspergers.ca.

Autism Ontario

Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by people with ASD and their families. People of all ages with ASD or Asperger syndrome, and their families, can access Autism Ontario. They provide information and education, and support research. They also advocate for programs and services for the ASD community. There are various chapters throughout Ontario. These can be found on the Autism Ontario website.

The Realize Community Potential (RCP) Program is designed to directly support families of children with ASD. A highly skilled clinical professional will work with families in communities across the province. This professional is identified as the RCP Coordinator and can be reached by contacting the chapters in York Region, Durham, Niagara, London, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, and Windsor.

For more information call 416-246-9592 or visit www.autismontario.com. For the York Region Chapter call 905-780-1590 or email york@autismontario.com

respiteservices.com

respiteservices.com helps families develop a respite care plan. Respite care can happen in two ways: in your home or out of your home. When respite care is provided in your home, a caregiver comes into your house to care for your child. This can give you time to do other things such as spending time with a sibling, house cleaning, banking, and shopping. Respite care outside your home means that your child is cared for temporarily in another setting such as a residence, group home, or camp. Children of any age with a developmental or physical disability are eligible.

respiteservices.com offers two programs to families who have a child with ASD:

- The respite program helps to find respite care for your child.
- The Community Helpers for Active Participation (CHAP) program helps you to find a qualified worker who you can hire to support your child with ASD.

For more information visit www.respiteservices.com or contact 416-322-6317. In addition, respiteservices.com will assist families in completing SSAH and ACSD applications (see Financial Support Services section).

School Services

Pre-School Services

York Region Municipality of Community and Health Services Department Child Care Fee Assistance and Child Care Support line provides families of children from birth to nine years of age with detailed information on licensed child care options in York Region. These include child care centres, specialized nursery programs, and home care arranged through a licensed private home agency. It also provides assistance in placement and care of children with special needs, and a registry of family resource and parent programs. They also administer the child care fee subsidy program for families who need help paying for licensed child care.

If you are a parent, foster parent, or legal guardian, you may qualify for money to help pay for all or part of your child care. It will depend on your income and job.

For more information call (888) 256-1112 or visit www.york.ca

Ontario Early Years Centres

Ontario Early Years Centres are places where parents and caregivers of children from birth to six years of age can:

- take part with their children in a range of programs and activities
- get answers to questions about child development
- get information about programs and services that are available for young children and their families
- talk to early years professionals, as well as other parents and caregivers in the community.

To find a centre closest to you visit www.ontarioearlyyears.ca.

School-age services

Most school boards have ASD support personnel who will consult with your child's teacher. Referrals are made by the teacher or principal of the school. Ask your teacher or principal what support your school can offer to students diagnosed with ASD. School boards will require a diagnosis in the child's Ontario School Record (OSR) and your signature will be needed on the referral form.

Ministry of Education

The Ontario Ministry of Education provides information regarding your child's future education which includes:

- information about their individual education plan (IEP) if they have one
- the transitions which may occur whether they are entering the school system for the first time or they change to a new classroom or grade
- the difference between Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) and Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI)
- who to contact if you have questions about your child's education or services and supports for your child

For more information visit www.edu.gov.on.ca.

York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB)

Both the York Region District School Board and York Catholic District School Board offer a variety of special education services and programming for children with special needs.

Information about these services can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca> (YRDSB) and www.ycdsb.ca (YCDSB).

Information about the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) can also be found on the school board websites. SEACs make recommendations to school boards regarding the development and delivery of special education programs and services for students with special needs, also known as “exceptional students.” They take part in the school board’s annual review of its special education plan and review the budget and financial statements. SEACs also provide important information to parents.

Websites and Books for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Autism Ontario

This organization has a list of available resource materials that are very comprehensive and affordable. "*Children Diagnosed with Autism: What to Expect and Where to Get Help: Strategies and Information for Ontario Families and Care Providers*" is a complete and thorough discussion of ASD. It covers everything you can do to help the preschooler with ASD.

There is a second publication "*Living with ASD – Adolescence and Beyond*" that helps you navigate services through to adulthood.

"*Navigating the Special Education System in Ontario*" is a must have for every parent whose child is embarking on, or is in, the school system in Ontario.

For further information on available resource materials go to <http://www.autismontario.com> and click on Publications.

Autism Speaks

This organization has a complete list of books and web sites as well as magazines, products, and DVDs.

Visit the Resource Library on the Autism Speaks website <http://www.AutismSpeaks.org>.

Geneva Centre for Autism

This organization has an extensive library of books and videos available for loan to members.

For further information on their resource library go to <http://www.autism.net>.

Parent Books

This is a bookstore that specializes in books about parenting and has a comprehensive section on ASD.

To see a complete list you can visit their website at <http://www.parentbooks.ca> or you can contact them at 416-537-8334 or 1-800-209-9182.

Suggested Books

Children Diagnosed with Autism: What to Expect and Where to Get Help: Strategies and Information for Ontario Families and Care Providers

Available at Autism Ontario www.autismontario.org

Navigating the Special Education System in Ontario

Available at Autism Ontario www.autismontario.org

The First Year: Autism Spectrum Disorders: An Essential Guide for the Newly Diagnosed Child

Author: Nancy D. Wiseman

Publisher: Da Capo Press, 2009

Overcoming Autism: Finding the Answers, Strategies and Hope That Can Transform a Child's Life

Author: Lynn Kern Koegel, Claire LaZebnik

Publisher: Penguin 2005

More Than Words: Helping Parents Promote Communication and Social Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Author: Fern Sussman

Publisher: Hanen Centre 1999

Building Bridges Through Sensory Integration

Author: Ellen Yack, Shirley Sutton, Paula Aquilla

Publisher: Sensory Resources 2nd Printing 2004

Children with Autism: A Parent's Guide

Author Michael D. Powers

Publisher: Woodbine House 2000

1001 Great Ideas for Teaching and Raising Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Author Veronica Zysk and Ellen Notbohm

Publisher: Future Horizons; 1 edition, 2004

More Than a Mom – Living a Full and Balanced Life When Your Child Has Special Needs

Author: Amy Baskin and Heather Fancett

Publisher: Woodbine House 2006

The Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome

Author: Tony Attwood

Publisher: Jessica Kingsley Publishers 2006

Asperger Syndrome and Your Child: A Parent's Guide

Author: Michael Powers

Publisher: Harper Paperbacks 2003

Suggested Books for Children

A Book About What Autism Can Be Like

Author: Sue Adams (ages six to 12)

I Am Utterly Unique: Celebrating the Strength of Children with Asperger Syndrome and High-Functioning Autism

Author: Elaine Marie Larson (ages seven to 12)

Everybody is Different: A Book for Young People who have Brothers or Sisters with Autism

Author: Fiona Bleach (ages four to eight)

Publisher: Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2002

The Autism Acceptance Book, Being a Friend to Someone with Autism

Author: Ellen Sabin (ages nine to 12)

Publisher: Watering Can Press; 1st edition, 2006)

Ian's Walk: A Story about Autism

Author: Laurie Lears

Useful Websites

Ability Online

<http://www.ablelink.org>

Free online community for young people with disabilities. Ability Online is an opportunity to make friends and chat with others in an environment that is monitored 24 hours a day by volunteers.

Alliance for Families with Autism (AFA)

<http://www.allianceforfamilieswithautism.blogspot.com>

Autism Ontario

<http://www.autismontario.com>

Autism Spectrum Disorder Website of Peel Region

<http://www.cdrcp.com/autism.html>

Autism Speaks – Canada

<http://www.autismspeaks.ca>

Autism Central

<http://www.autismcentral.ca>

Autism Canada Foundation

<http://www.autismcanada.org>

AutismPro.com

<http://autismpro.com>

Aspergers Society of Ontario

<http://www.aspergers.ca>

CAIRN – Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network

The only Canadian web site dedicated to posting the best available evidence-based findings on autism.

<http://www.cairn-site.com>

Connectability – A Project of Community Living

<http://www.connectability.ca>

dsto – Developmental Services Toronto

<http://www.dsto.com>

This website focuses upon the over 30 developmental services agencies funded by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services to provide one or more service or support to individuals and their families.

Although it says on the opening page that the service is for adults, it is in fact for all ages. When you are on the home page, click on "Contact Us" on the left hand column and then click on "Developmental Service Agencies". This will bring you to a page where you can type in the particular service you are looking for and age of your child and you will be given a list of agencies that meet that requirement.

First Signs

<http://www.FirstSigns.org>

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

<http://children.gov.on.ca>

Ministry of Education

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>

Ontario Autism Coalition

<http://www.ontarioautism.com>

Ontario Association for Infant and Child Development

<http://www.oaicd.ca>