



Autism Supports for Your Family

This resource sheet provides links to services and agencies that can help your family navigate the system and find supports for your child who has been diagnosed with Autism.

Ontario Autism Program (OAP)

The [Ontario Autism Program](#) (OAP) is how services for children and youth on the Autism Spectrum are funded by the provincial government. Children and youth with this diagnosis are eligible for OAP support up until the age of 18.

Service	More information	How to sign up
<p>Access OAP</p> <p>Access OAP is the central organization that you register with to be able to access programming through the Ontario Autism Program. Access OAP is the umbrella organization. Once you have registered here, you will have access to the other branches of the program.</p> <p>*DO THIS FIRST* *The OAP waitlist is managed by registration date, so it's important to register as soon as possible once you have received a diagnosis.</p>	<p>Website: www.accessOAP.ca Email: info@accessoap.ca Phone: 1-833-425-2445</p>	<p>Register at: www.accessOAP.ca</p> <p>There are two steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create an account 2. Add a child <p>When you add a child to your AccessOAP account, you will need to upload a copy of your child's diagnosis letter, birth certificate, and a proof of address (eg. their report card from school).</p> <p>Once registered, you will receive an OAP Registration Number. You will need this number to access the other branches of the program.</p> <p>Keep an eye on your email and AccessOAP account, because that's how they will let you know your child is eligible for any of the OAP programs.</p>
<p>OAP – Core Clinical Services</p> <p>Core Clinical Services are things such as Speech Language</p>	<p>Information about this OAP service: https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program-core-clinical-services</p>	<p>Once your child is registered with Access OAP, they will automatically be placed on the waitlist for Core Clinical Services. When it's their turn, a Service Coordinator from Access OAP will reach out to schedule and Intake and then a</p>

Service	More information	How to sign up
Therapy, Occupational Therapy, ABA therapy and Mental Health Services.		Determination of Needs appointment. Following that, you will be given an amount of funding that you can use to purchase services for your child. This funding will be deposited into your bank account. Depending on the amount of funding it may come in installments.
<p>OAP – Caregiver Mediated Early Years Programming</p> <p>This OAP service supports eligible families with children ages 12-48 months by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helping young kids learn new skills and meet individualized goals in the areas of social communication and play. - Providing parents/caregivers with therapeutic strategies from professionals to support their child’s development. 	<p>Information about this OAP service: www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program-caregiver-mediated-early-years-programs</p>	<p>Once AccessOAP lets you know your child is eligible:</p> <p>Review the list of service providers at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program-caregiver-mediated-early-years-programs#section-4 <p>Choose which service you would like to use for your child.</p> <p>Contact the service provider to register.</p>
<p>OAP – Entry to School Program</p> <p>This OAP service is available for kids ages 3-6 the year before school entry.</p>	<p>Information about this OAP service: www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program-entry-school-program</p>	<p>Invitations for this program are issued through the portal. If you believe your child is eligible and have not received an invitation, contact the AccessOAP directly to inquire.</p>
<p>OAP – Foundational Family Services</p> <p>These are OAP funded programs that you can attend</p>	<p>Information about this OAP service: www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program-foundational-family-services</p>	<p>Once you have received an OAP registration number, you can register for programming. Below is a list of some of the agencies that offer Foundational Family Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Canopy Support Services (https://magnolia-cod-a6me.squarespace.com/autism-services/#foundational)

Service	More information	How to sign up
<p>while you are waiting for Core Clinical Services.</p> <p>They cover things such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -parent connection groups -sibling support -Lego nights -information webinars -brief behavioural therapy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kinark (https://kinarkautismservices.ca) - Kerry's Place (www.kerrysplace.org/support-and-services/east-region/) - Surrey Place (https://www.surreyplace.ca/services/autism-services/foundational-family-services/) - CHEO (https://www.cheo.on.ca/en/clinics-services-programs/family-foundational-services.aspx) - McMaster (https://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/mcmaster-childrens-hospital/areas-of-care/developmental-pediatrics-and-rehabilitation/autism-program/) - Any other OAP Foundational Family Services Provider in the province (you can access service throughout the province) (www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program-foundational-family-services#section-3)
<p>OAP – Urgent Response Services (URS)</p> <p>This OAP service provides a time limited, rapid service response for children and youth with autism.</p> <p>Urgent Response Service (URS) addresses a specific behaviour, with a focus on preventing further escalation of risk of harm to the person, others, and/or property.</p>	<p>Find more details here: www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program-urgent-response-services</p> <p>In this region, URS can be accessed through Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth www.rfecydurham.com/programs-and-services/ontario-autism-program-urgent-response-service-urs</p> <p>Phone: 905-427-8862 extension 426 Email: info@rfecydurham.com</p>	<p>Access URS only when there has been a significant change in behaviour within the past two weeks (for example, self-harm, flight risk, aggression, and property destruction).</p> <p>*URS is NOT an Emergency Service. If you have an emergency, dial 9-1-1, call Four County Crisis at 1-866-995-9933, or attend at your nearest emergency department.</p>

Other Supports for Families

There are many other community and funding supports available to children and youth with an Autism diagnosis.

What is it?	More Information	How to sign up
<p>Autism Ontario</p> <p>A community of support that represents the thousands of people on the Autism Spectrum and their families across Ontario.</p>	<p>Learn more: www.autismontario.com</p>	<p>Check out the Autism Ontario website for events, webinars, local chapters, and other resources.</p> <p>They have an email list that provides regular updates about events.</p>
<p>Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)</p> <p>Funding to cover the additional expenses that come with caring for a child with a disability.</p>	<p>Learn more: www.ontario.ca/page/assistance-children-severe-disabilities-program</p> <p>Phone: (905) 440-1090 Mail: 850 King Street W Oshawa, Ontario, L1J 2L5</p>	<p>Household income cut-off is approximately \$76,000 for a family of four</p> <p>Online application form is here: www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/indiv/#/</p> <p>You will need these supporting documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caregiver and child's birth certificate - Child's health care - Proof of Ontario residence - Child's medical diagnosis - All caregivers' Notice of Assessment (unless you are in receipt of OW/ODSP) - Canada Child Benefit statement - Caregivers SIN - Void cheque/direct deposit authorization <p>*You do not need to complete this form in one sitting. Saving the application frequently is recommended</p>
<p>Special Services at Home (SSAH)</p> <p>Funding to help with costs related to respite, support for daily activities, personal</p>	<p>Learn more: www.ontario.ca/page/special-services-home</p>	<p>Online application form is here: - www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/indiv/#/</p>

What is it?	More Information	How to sign up
<p>growth, and development for your child with physical/developmental disabilities</p>		<p>You will need these supporting documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child's birth certificate - Child's medical diagnosis - Proof of Ontario residence <p>*You do not need to complete this form in one sitting. Saving the application frequently is recommended</p>
<p>Disability Tax Credit</p> <p>Non-refundable tax credit is based on child's needs.</p>	<p>Learn more: www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/disability-tax-credit.html</p> <p>If approved, you can also open a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) for your child. For those caregivers already receiving the Canada Child Benefit, they will become automatically eligible for the Child Disability Benefit (CDB) as well. The CDB can be paid out for past years depending on the dates included by the medical professional. If you are owed more than two years of backpay you need to make a request in writing to the CRA.</p>	<p>Must be completed by a doctor</p>
<p>Incontinence Grant</p> <p>Funding to assist with incontinence supplies for children age 3+ with a disability.</p>	<p>Learn more: https://services.easterseals.org/inc-ontinence-supplies-grant/</p>	<p>Application needs to be signed by doctor</p>
<p>Access 2 Card</p> <p>This card allows a support person to enter activities/events for free or at a reduced rate.</p>	<p>Learn more: www.access2card.ca</p>	<p>Complete the form, and either pay online or send a cheque with the application. This requires a registered health professional to sign the application.</p>
<p>Partners 4 Planning</p> <p>Get help with long-term planning for kids with disabilities, including info</p>	<p>Learn more: www.planningnetwork.ca</p>	<p>Visit the website, as there are free webinars running regularly on a variety of topics.</p>

What is it?	More Information	How to sign up
about Disability Tax Credit, RDSP, and transitions.		
Kerry's Place Respite Funding Funding for March break and summer respite, awarded based on a lottery system	Learn more: https://kerrysplace.org/	Registration occurs in January/February of each year
Respite Now Job board/assistance for finding respite workers	Learn more: www.respite-now.com Phone: (705) 743-2411 (Peterborough) (905) 372-4455 (Northumberland) (705) 328-0464 (Kawartha Lakes) (705) 457-2626 (Haliburton)	If interested in finding a respite worker, you can register on the app to be matched with workers.
Community Living and Respite Northumberland, Children's Respite Program (Northumberland Only) The Children's Program provides funding for respite for children with a disability who live in Northumberland County.	Learn more: www.communitylivingrespite.ca Phone: 9905-372-4455 ext 231 kbandy@communitylivingrespite.ca	Call or email Kelsey Bandy at the number to the left and ask for your child to be put on the waitlist for the Children's Respite Program.