

AT A GLANCE 2016-2017



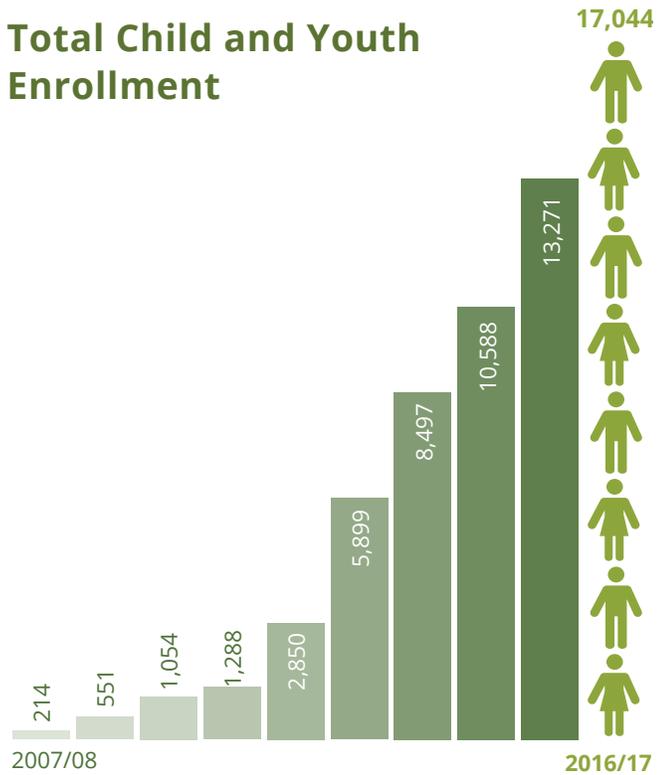
POTENTIAL PROGRAMME POTENTIEL

Autism Ontario's **Potential Programme** provides vital supports and services to over **17,000 Ontario children and youth** with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their **families**. The Programme also provides a diverse range of cost-effective, volunteer-supported services in all Ontario regions.

Programme Components



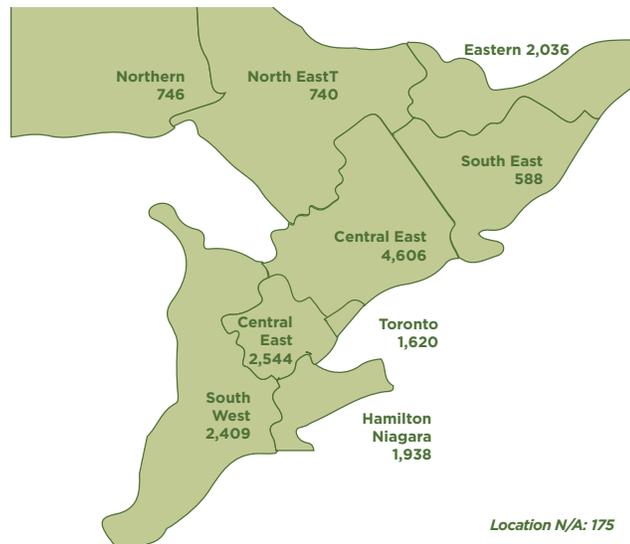
Total Child and Youth Enrollment



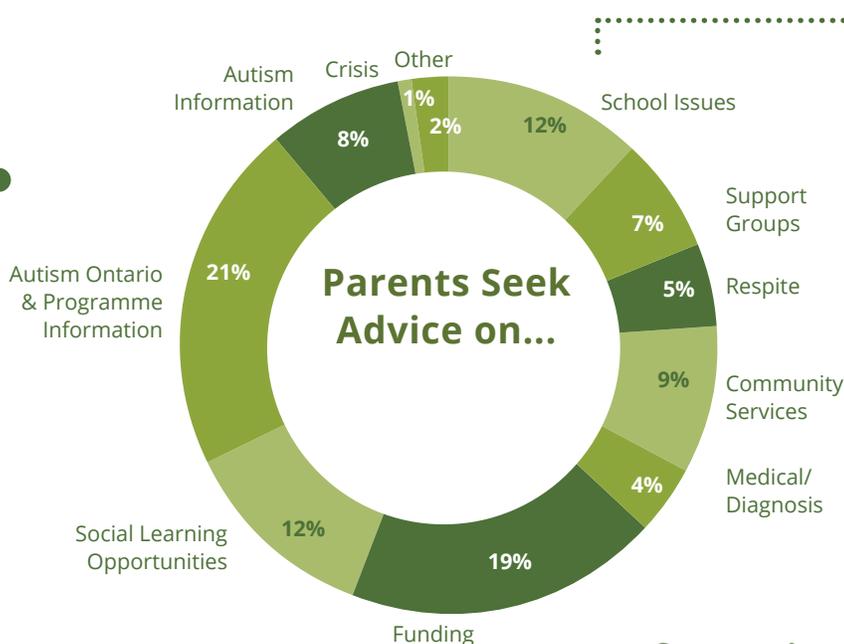
In 2016/2017...



Families by Region



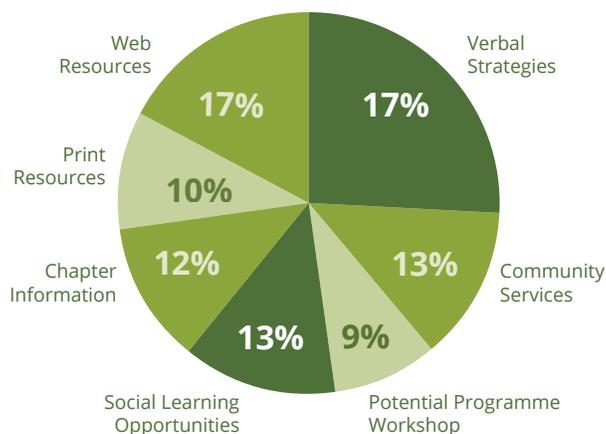
Programme services include:
 one-on-one parent support, social learning opportunities,
 workshops & webinars — and many French or bilingual events and services



Parents contact us by:



Information or Advice we give...



Webinars



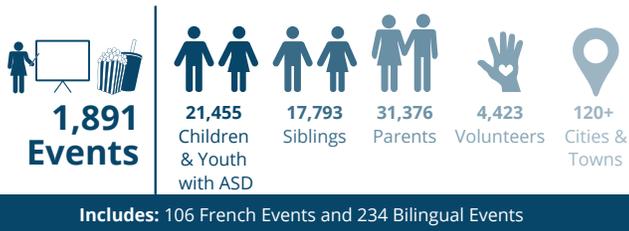
- > *"Inclusion: Creating Better Schools for All!"* – Paula Kluth
- > *"Understanding Challenging Behavior"* – Ross Greene
- > *In French: Sexuality and Individuals with ASD* – Vlatko Dabic
- > *"Self-Regulation"* – Stuart Shanker

"It is great to see what activities our kids can tolerate and if they can't do it, we can say we tried and we can try another time."

– Cornwall aquatic Centre

"The workshop was quite valuable and I was pleased to share the learning space with parents and professionals who simply have the children's well-being at heart."

– Northern Tour: ABA strategies, Positive Advocacy in Schools, Transitions to Adulthood



The Programme's events provide rich, personal experiences for the children, youth and families. On average, 470 events are delivered in each quarter across the province.

French Language Services

- > The number of French workshop and webinar topics continue to increase and provide up-to-date information. New this year: *"Sexuality and Individuals with ASD"* and *"Funding Sources for Children with ASD"*.
- > Expert workshops, allow face-to-face interaction with parents, teachers and caregivers; including a 12-week socio-sexual skill-building workshop for teens in Ottawa and ABA training in North Bay.
- > Expanding of parent support groups in French; now include Barrie, Welland and Sturgeon Falls.
- > A parent guide to effective and positive advocacy is posted on Autism Ontario's website, in English and in French. This resource maps out how to navigate the special education maze. Its information and advice helps educate and better equip parents to ensure their child's needs are known and met.
- > The bilingual online Knowledge Base now includes over 120 articles and tip sheets written specifically for parents. Thank you to the Canada-Ontario Agreement that supports material translation.



174 Francophone children, youth and their families joined our Programme this year.

« Il paraît que le musée était bien préparé à nous recevoir! L'activité sensorielle était de toute génialité! Mon fils a adoré cette sortie! Il faut admettre qu'au début je ne croyais pas pouvoir le garder avec tous le groupe pour l'heure complète de la visite. Mais, en plus de l'heure nous avons resté un 45 minutes de plus après la visite guidée. Merci beaucoup Autisme Ontario et à tous les organisateurs pour leur travail! »

– Musée des Beaux-Arts (Ottawa)

Programme Expansion in 2017

NEW!

Our programme is expanding with the following new services and resources:

- > **Enhanced parent training** *modules & resources*
- > **More webinars** *that focus on current topical & practical subjects*
- > An **education portal** *that will be hosted soon on the Autism Ontario website*
- > **New social learning opportunities for children in their early years**

Also vital to the Programme's success are the countless hours and dedication provided by our 25 local Chapters and their volunteers; Autism Ontario's Specialized Programs and Services; the Programme's Knowledge Project Evaluation Team; and new Partnerships.



Knowledge Project Evaluation Team

A partnership with autism researchers at York University, the Programme's Knowledge Project is a team of program evaluators with expertise in research design and methodology, knowledge of data collection tools and evidence-based practices called upon to evaluate programme activity and outcomes on an ongoing basis. Its accomplishments include:

- > Presentations in 21 national and 21 international conferences.
- > Two peer-reviewed journal publications; Three magazine publications.
- > Valuable project research and participation of 23 students pursuing careers in autism.

Key Partnerships

- > **Ripley's Aquarium:** This year we hosted our largest event ever with 1,600 people enjoying a sensory-friendly evening at Ripley's Aquarium of Canada. Ripley's raised the lights slightly, lowered the sounds, and the crowds were kept at a minimum. Ripley's small but important accommodations made all the difference for the children and their families.
- > **REACH Family Nights** – For four years, we have partnered with REACH ABA Services & Supports and the Powerhouse Project. From October to May, we host evenings where families can come to eat, relax and connect. Our team also leads a parent support group while REACH's team provides activities for the children.
- > **Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival:** This year, we trained staff at the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority about ASD and they hosted 500 people! The entire site reserved just for our families who learned about syrup production, taffy-making and enjoyed horse-drawn wagon rides.
- > **Skyzone:** Our staff visited Skyzone locations to show instructors how to host sensory-friendly events (quieter music, fewer crowds, shorter wait-times and strategies for positive participant experiences). These events were also open to the public to provide participants a more accessible and integrated public experience.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services for this Programme.