



Simcoe County Next Steps...

A Resource Guide for Families of Young Children who have been Recently Diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

We Can Help.
Autism is treatable. Early Intervention is critical. Act early.

This Resource Guide was produced in partnership by:



Edited December 2017

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Simcoe County Next Steps...

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a brain based condition affecting the development of social skills and behaviour.

Diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder changed in May 2013, when the new Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM 5), was published. Terms such as Asperger Syndrome, PDD-NOS, and Autistic Disorder are no longer used. Anyone who is assessed and meets criteria will be given the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. There are now two domains instead of three:

1. Social Communication and Social Interaction

There are 3 criteria in this domain and all 3 criteria must be met for a diagnosis to be made. These are persistent deficits that are present in multiple environments, currently or in the past affecting the following:

- a. The ability to relate to other people socially and emotionally
- b. The use of nonverbal communication, such as eye contact, gestures and facial expression
- c. The development and understanding of relationships

2. Restricted repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests, or activities

There are 4 criteria in this domain and at least 2 criteria must be met for a diagnosis. These symptoms may be present currently or in the past.

- a. Repetitive motor movements, use of objects or speech patterns
- b. Insistence on sameness, need for routines or rituals
- c. Highly restricted, fixated interests
- d. Unusual reactivity to sensory input

These criteria must be present in the early developmental period, and must cause significant impairments in important areas of current functioning, in order for a diagnosis to be made.

The severity of the condition will be specified according to the level of support required for a person to function in various environments. It is now also necessary to specify if there are any accompanying conditions, such as language impairment, intellectual impairment, an associated medical condition, or another neurodevelopmental disorder such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

What causes Autism Spectrum Disorder?

A single specific cause of Autism Spectrum Disorder is not known. Genetic and environmental influences are believed to play a role. In many families, there appears to be a pattern of autism or related disabilities. There is also an increased risk for siblings to be diagnosed.

Who is affected?

ASD knows no ethnic, racial, social or economic boundaries. ASD is more common than we used to think, occurring in approximately 1 in 94 people (approximately 1% of the population). Boys are more frequently affected than girls. The increased prevalence is felt to be caused by broadening of the diagnostic criteria, increased awareness of the condition, and better access to diagnostic testing.

Is there a cure?

To cure means "to restore to health, soundness, or normality." In the medical sense, there is no cure for the differences in the brain which result in Autism Spectrum Disorder. Although ASD is a lifelong condition, the increased understanding of the disorder has led to the development of various coping strategies. Some of the traits may lessen or change as the child ages depending on the stresses and supports in the environment. With appropriate intervention, many of the associated behaviours can be positively changed. However, the majority of children and adults will continue to exhibit some symptoms of ASD to some degree throughout their entire lives.

Information for "What is Autism?" was adapted from: the Autism Ontario Website; The Canadian Best Practice Guidelines for the Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Young Children, 2008; from a presentation called "Sooner Rather Than Later: Advances in the Early Detection of Autism Spectrum Disorders" by Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, MD, FRCPC; and Dr. Nicola Jones-Stokreef, MD, FRCP(C).

Why connect with services?

Having a child receive a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can be overwhelming. Many parents will receive the diagnosis and ask themselves, 'now what?' and wonder where to turn next. Simcoe County has a number of services and supports available for families to help their child reach their full potential. In this document you will find contact information for agencies that provide a wide range of services. This will assist you as the primary caregiver to support your loved one. It's okay to ask for help!

When to connect with services?

Whenever you are ready! Receiving a diagnosis for your child comes with a wide range of emotions and can be very difficult. However, it is important to know that these services are available and can be very beneficial for parents, as well as the child diagnosed with ASD. If you are feeling overwhelmed and not knowing where to start, agencies are there to help. Early intervention is ideal for children with ASD.

The best way to prepare for the challenges and opportunities ahead is to find the right help, support, and information sources that work best for you and your family as soon as you are ready to do so.

Where to start?

Autism Ontario - Simcoe County Chapter

Phone: 705-252-7429

www.autismontario.com/simcoe

Kerry's Place Autism Services

Phone: 905-713-6808 ext. 350 (Community Services Access)

www.kerrysplace.org

Ontario Autism Program (OAP)

Phone: 1-888-454-6275 (Kinark Central Intake)

autism@kinark.on.ca

FINANCIAL HELP

ACSD may provide parents who meet the financial and medical criteria with financial aid for extra costs (prescription drugs, specialized toys, hearing aids, transportation costs to attend specialist appointments, medical expenses not covered by drug card, etc.) involved in caring for a child with a disability.

Contact: Ministry of Community and Social Services, 34 Simcoe Street, Barrie, Ontario

Phone: 705-737-1311 ext.322 or 1-877-669-6658

Phone: 905-713-6808 ext. 350

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/disabilities.aspx>

Central East Region Respite Flexible Funding for Children with ASD (Kerry's Place Autism Services)

The purpose of the Children's Respite Flexible Fund is to help caregivers get the flexible and individualized support that their family needs in order for them to take intervals of time off from their care-giving duties. This funding is available to children up to the age of 18. **Please note there is an annual deadline by which all applications must be received (usually the deadline is February each year).**

To obtain an application form please visit: www.kerrysplace.org

Contact: 38B Berczy Street, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 1W9

Phone: 905-713-6808 x 360

www.kerrysplace.org

Disability Tax Credit –T2201

The Disability Tax Credit is applied for through Revenue Canada. It provides families caring for a child (under 18 years of age with a developmental/physical disability), with a tax free benefit up to \$2,351 per year (\$195.91 per month). This funding can be retroactive and some families may be eligible to receive money from the time of their child's birth. The application can be filled out by a Medical Doctor, Speech Language Pathologist, Optometrist, Occupational Therapist, or Psychologist.

Contact: 1-800-387-1193

www.cra-arc.gc.ca/benefits

Easter Seals Society Incontinence Program

This program is for children with a diagnosed developmental/physical disability resulting in difficulties toilet training. This program may provide additional financial support for children who require diapers after 3 years of age. Please note, Easter Seals primarily funds children with physical disabilities. However, children with autism are eligible for the Incontinence Supplies Grant Program.

Top Up Program

The *Top Up Program* “tops up” the annual amount from the Incontinence Supplies Grant Program for eligible individuals and families. This program is fully funded by the Ministry of Children & Youth Services, and all eligibility criteria and top up grant levels are set by this Ministry. Easter Seals Ontario acts as a transfer payment agency for this program.

Contact: 705-689-9756 or 1-800-461-3391

www.easterseals.org/services/incontinence-supplies-grant

Special Services at Home - (SSAH)

SSAH may provide financial assistance to families who are caring for a child with a developmental or physical disability at home. The program focuses on providing time-limited funding to assist families to fill service gaps and purchase supports that are not otherwise available in the community. SSAH funding can be utilized for the child’s personal growth and development and/or family relief and support. Recently there have been changes to the renewal process for SSAH. Please check with your Special Agreements Officer to determine if a re-application is required in November of each year.

Contact: Ministry of Community and Social Services, 34 Simcoe Street, Barrie, Ontario, L4N 6T4 Phone: 705-737-1311 ext. 2322 or 1-877-669-6658

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/specialservices.aspx>

Catulpa Community Support Services

Children's Respite Funding

Respite provides parents/primary caregivers temporary relief from the responsibility of caring for a child/youth with a disability, allowing them time to renew themselves and an opportunity for the child/youth with a disability to spend time with others in their own home or to have new experiences in the broader community. The overall goal of respite is to provide flexible support to parents/primary caregivers, to address family priorities and to improve quality of life. Children must be school-aged (up to 18 years) with a physical and/or intellectual disability (IQ below 70) and reside in Orillia, Collingwood, Midland, or Alliston areas.

Contact: 705-733-3227 ext. 2335

www.catulpa.on.ca

Simcoe Community Services

Family Relief Funding

Respite Funding/Family Relief: Respite funding can be used to pay for services of a respite provider and can also reimburse fees for registered camps and community recreational programs with registered businesses. To qualify for respite funding your child must have a professional assessment indicating an Intellectual Disability and/or a physical disability.

Contact: Applications may be downloaded from www.respiteservices.com/simcoe or call 705-726-9082 to be directed to the Respite Coordinator.

www.simcoecommunityservices.ca

COMMUNITY AGENCIES

The new Ontario Autism Program will ensure autism services for children and youth are delivered consistently across the province, allow for flexibility and choice based on each child's needs, and give families confidence in receiving quality services. The government is committed to ensuring families are supported through a smooth and seamless transition as they enter the new OAP. Transition planning within the new program will be individualized, planned in advance and will be achieved in partnership with each child's family, OAP professionals and service providers. Children and youth with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder from a qualified professional will be eligible for the OAP up until the age of 18.

Website: ontario.ca/autism. Simcoe County Intake: 1-888-454-6275

Families are now transitioning into the new OAP. The key components of the new program include:

- **A single point of access.** There will be one access point to the OAP in each of the nine service areas to make it easier for families to access services for their child.
- **Family-centred decision making.** As key partners in their child's care, families will be actively engaged in the assessment, goal-setting and intervention planning process for their child.
- **Collaborative approach to service.** A foundation of the new OAP will be the collaborative approach taken by community support service providers, clinicians and educators to support children's needs at home, during service and in school.
- **Service based on need.** Services will be flexible and individualized. The intensity and duration of the services a child or youth receives is based on their needs and strengths, regardless of age. Each child's service plan will be determined by clinical assessment.
- **A direct funding option.** A new direct funding option will be implemented by the end of this year. This will provide all families with a choice between receiving direct service or receiving funding to purchase their child's service.
- **Safe, effective autism services.** The province intends to regulate ABA practitioners to help ensure families receive safe, high-quality services, have confidence in their providers and know where to go if they have a concern.

Autism Ontario – Simcoe County Chapter

Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. Some services provided:

- Family Support Coordinator
- Support Group Meetings
- Online Webinars & Workshops
- French Language Support is available (1-800-472-7789 x 240 rpcprovincial@autismontario.com)
- Funding for March Break or Summer 1:1 Workers for Children Under 18 years
- Recreational and social programming, as well as family gathering events that provide valuable opportunities for your child to simply be themselves in a social environment

Contact: Autism Ontario - Simcoe County Chapter, 80 Bradford St Unit 105, Barrie, Ontario L4N 6S7

Phone: 705-252-7429

Fax: 705-252-7431

www.autismontario.com/simcoe

Important Links:

1:1 March Break & Summer Camp Fund: <http://www.autismontario.com/camp>

Webinars: <http://www.autismontario.com/client/aso/ao.nsf/web/Autism+Ontario+Webinars>

ASD Resources & Toolkits: <http://raisetheflagforautism.com/>

Catulpa Community Support Services

This agency provides access to services for families of children who have ASD, a developmental disability and/or physical disability. Families can access the following programs:

- Early Intervention Program
- Family Resource Services (school aged children)
- Children's Respite Funding
- Intensive Service Coordination

Contact: 165 Ferris Lane, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 2Y1

Phone: 705-733-3227 ext. 2335

www.catulpa.on.ca

Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences

A referral can be made for children who have an intellectual disability with a significant cognitive delay who exhibit challenging behaviour that is interfering with their ability to participate in daily living activities. Scope of service is determined by evaluation of needs and may be provided through individual and/or group support. Following a behaviour assessment, a behaviour support plan is created that includes prevention and intervention strategies. In addition, specific skills are taught with the goal of replacing the challenging behaviour. Mediators (i.e., family, group home staff, etc.) learn to implement the behaviour support plan and data is collected to measure progress. Assessment and treatment strategies are based on the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA).

Contact: 570 Bryne Drive, Unit H, Barrie, Ontario L4N 6P9

Phone: 705-728-9143

www.mackenziehealth.ca

Children's Development Services at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre

Every child with Autism Spectrum Disorder is unique and has his or her own individual needs. Typical services important for children with ASD, provided by RVH Children's Development Services, include: The Simcoe County Preschool Speech and Language Program and the Paediatric Occupational Therapy Program. The team working with your child can assist you in identifying all appropriate services for your child and family and assist you with referrals.

Speech and Occupational Therapy services are provided on a variety of models, e.g., intervention based education, mediator therapy, consultation and in the location most appropriate for the individual child and family, including, daycare, family home, hospital clinic, etc. Direct therapy services are available only in speech services.

Contact: 705-739-5696 or 1-800-675-1979

www.rvh.on.ca

Paediatric Occupational Therapy Services

The Paediatric Occupational Therapy Services provides assessment, treatment, consultation and education services to infants, toddlers and preschoolers in Barrie and Bradford when there are concerns regarding fine-motor, sensory development, or feeding disorders.

There are five locations across the county:

- *Barrie
- *Bradford
- *Midhurst
- *Borden/Angus
- *Minesing and surrounding area

Contact: *Central Intake at 705-739-5696 or 1-800-756-1979*

Simcoe County Preschool Speech and Language Program

The Simcoe County Preschool Speech and Language Program provides speech, language, communication and where applicable, feeding assessments, treatment, consultation and education services to infants, toddlers and preschoolers in Simcoe County.

There are seven locations across the county, please call our central intake at 705-739-5696 or 1-800-756-1979.

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre
201 Georgian Drive, Barrie

Ontario Early Years Centre
250 Peel Street, Collingwood

Penetanguishene General Hospital
25 Jeffrey Street, Penetanguishene

One Roof
230 Aberdeen Blvd. Midland

Children's Development Services
1080 Mississauga Street, Orillia

Stephenson Memorial Hospital
200 Fletcher Crescent, Alliston

Bradford-West Gwillimbury Child and Family Services
118 Barrie Street, Bradford

Children's Therapy Services/Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital

Children's Therapy Services (CTS) works with its community partner agencies in Early Intervention across Simcoe County to assist with the treatment and support of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families.

CTS provides Occupational Therapy* and Physiotherapy across Simcoe County (*except for the Barrie and Bradford areas, where OT is provided through RVH) for children and their families who are experiencing difficulties with fine motor, feeding, sensory motor and gross motor skills. This service is provided in a variety of community locations including the child's home, nursery school, day care and local clinic settings. CTS also provide the services of a social worker to assist those families who have a child recently diagnosed and are experiencing challenges. CTS also provide education and workshops for parents and service providers across Simcoe County.

Contact: *Phone: 705-326-2214*

Children's Treatment Network (CTN) supports more than 6,000 children and youth (birth to 19) throughout York Region and Simcoe County with multiple special needs. CTN provides specialized clinical and rehabilitation services through a network of partner organizations, including school boards, hospitals and other health agencies and community organizations. Together we foster an integrated, family-centered approach and deliver services where families spend their time: at home, in the community and at school. CTN is funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Contact: 165 Ferris Lane, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 2Y1

Phone: 1-866-377-0286

www.ctnsy.ca

Infant Development Program (ID)/Resource Teacher Program (RT)

These programs provide services and supports to families with preschool children who have, or who are at risk of having, a developmental disability including ASD. They can facilitate referrals to other services, assist with funding applications and provide education and information to families. Each program can provide in home and/or in preschool support to the child and family. French Language Services are available.

The Infant Development Program provides support to families across Simcoe County from birth until they transition to the Resource Teacher Program/Early Intervention Programs.

Simcoe Community Services

Contact: 39 Fraser Court, Barrie, Ontario, L4N 5J5

Phone: 705-726-0701 ext. 2292

www.simcoecommunityservices.ca

The Resource Teacher Program supports children as early as two years of age until school entry. Please call the program based in your community.

Catulpa Community Support Services (Orillia area)

Contact: 1080 Mississauga Street West, Orillia, L3V 3C8

Phone: 705-326-2214 ext. 2231

www.catulpa.on.ca

CLASS – Preschool Resource Services (PRS)

Contact: 125 Dufferin Street S, Alliston, L9R 1E9

Phone: 705-435-4792

www.class.on.ca

Community Living Huronia, Preschool Resource Services

Contact: 230 Aberdeen Blvd., Unit 9, Midland, L4R 5N4

Phone: 705-526-4253

www.clhmidland.on.ca

E3 Community Services

Contact: 100 Pretty River Parkway North, Collingwood, L4Y 4X2

Phone: 705-445-6351

www.e3.ca

Simcoe Community Services

Contact: 39 Fraser Court, Barrie, Ontario, L4N 5J5

Phone: 705-726-0701 ext. 2312

www.simcoecommunityservices.ca

Family Support/Family Resource Worker

Family Support/Resource programs work in partnership with families of school aged children with an intellectual disability. Using a family centred approach, workers assist families to identify and access the services and information they require to support themselves and their family member in the community. Direct and indirect supports are provided through family visits, parent-to-parent contact, groups, resource information, community outreach and support and consultation to families and service providers.

Autism Ontario-Simcoe County Chapter

Contact: 80 Bradford St Unit 105, Barrie, Ontario L4N 6S7

Phone: 705-252-7429

Catulpa Community Support Services (Orillia, Midland, Collingwood, Wasaga Beach & New Tecumseth)

Contact: 165 Ferris Lane, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 2Y1

Phone: 705-725-7997 or toll Free 1-888-666-6012, ext. 2232

Simcoe Community Services Family Support Program (Barrie & Bradford)

Contact: 39 Fraser Court, Barrie, Ontario, L4N 5J5

Phone: 705-726-9082

Kerry's Place Autism Services

Kerry's Place Autism Services is a charitable, non-profit organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. We offer a comprehensive range of individualized support to children, adolescents, adults and their families who have a diagnosis of ASD.

A person with ASD, parent or guardian can self-refer. Any other person may initiate a referral with written consent from the family or the adult with ASD.

Contact: 38 B Berczy Street, Aurora, Ontario L4G 1W9

Phone: 905-713-6808 ext. 350 (Community Services Access)

yorksimcoeaccess@kerrysplace.org

www.kerrysplace.org

Kinark Child and Family Services

As the province transitions to the full implementation of the Ontario Autism Program, Kinark continues to provide a range of evidence-based, family-centred behaviour analytic services, including intensive intervention. Individualized treatment plans are developed for each child/youth admitted to the OAP to meet their unique needs across all developmental stages. Treatment planning is done in close collaboration with parents/caregivers and other autism service providers. Kinark is currently working with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and its community partners toward the full implementation of the new OAP, which is expected to be fully operational by the spring 2018. If you have questions about our autism services, please call the single point of access to OAP at 1-888-454-6275 or email us at: autism@kinark.on.ca

Kinark Child and Family Services (continued)

School Support Program – Autism Spectrum Disorder (SSP-ASD)

The Connections for Students (CFS) service, operated by the Kinark School Support Program, supports children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) transitioning from Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) services in the Central East Autism Program (CEAP) into full-time school placement. The CFS model establishes a child-centered, school-based transition team to support the child's successful transition into school. Supported by a Kinark SSP-ASD Consultant, the child, their family, and their school transition team receive consultative programming in Applied Behaviour Analysis based instructional methods for up to 12 months when the service plan for a child identifies transition to full-time school and/or a significant decrease in service hours. The goal of the Connections for Students Program is to improve outcomes for students with an ASD and their families through the successful transition of the child from IBI instructional methods into school.

Contact: *Scott Bark, Lead Manager, School Support Program*

Phone: 905-479 0158 ext. 424.

www.kinark.on.ca

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New Path Youth and Family Services

New Path is an accredited multi-service children's mental health centre working with children, adolescents and their families whose children are experiencing social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. They offer a range of services (such as respite, individual, family, and group counselling programs, early years services for children 0-6, school based counselling and support programs, parenting programs and residential services) although not all programs are available in each community. Staff and consultants include professionals from social work, child and youth work, therapeutic recreation, psychology and psychiatry.

Contact: *165 Ferris Lane, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 2Y1*

Phone: Central Intake: 705-725-7656 or 1-866-566-7656

www.newpath.ca

North Simcoe Muskoka & Central LHIN

The School Health Support Services program provides health services in school for students who require medical and/or rehabilitative assistance to enable them to attend school, participate in school routines and receive instruction. The program serves students in public schools and private schools, as well as students receiving home instruction.

North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN

<https://healthcareathome.ca/nsm/en/Contact-Us>

Central LHIN (Alliston, Bradford)

<https://healthcareathome.ca/central/en/Contact-Us>

Simcoe Community Services is a multi-service agency that provides a wide range of programs & services to pre-school children and their families including the Ontario Early Years Centre in Barrie/Simcoe/Bradford. The agency also supports children, teens and adults who have an intellectual disability and believes that everyone can contribute to their community.

- Ontario Early Years Centre (Barrie and Bradford)
- Simcoe County Infant Development Program – see page 10
- Resource Teacher Program – see page 10
- Family Relief Funding – see page 6
- Respite – see page 22
- Family Support – see page 11
- Let's Socialize - This group is open to youth from grades seven to ten (approximately 12-15 years of age) transitioning from elementary to secondary school. Two separate social skills groups are offered. The first group focuses on basic social boundaries and social skills; the second group focuses on sexuality and changing relationships. At least one parent must commit to attending the parent sessions in order to provide follow up support to the youth after the group ends
- Youth Programs (Youth in Action, WEB (Barrie) , Get OUT (Orillia)
- Youth in Action - These summer sessions provide high school aged youth the opportunity to expand their communication, social, recreation and life skills while participating in the community. They are open to any high-school aged youth, regardless of ability.

Most services are offered in Barrie, Orillia, Bradford and surrounding townships. Infant programs are offered county-wide.

Contact: 39 Fraser Court, Barrie, ON L4N 5J5

Phone: 705-726-9082

www.simcoecommunityservices.ca

RECREATION

Autism Ontario's Calypso website is a specialized resource designed to help Ontario parents find the right camp or camp program for their child or youth with ASD. On the website, camp programs self-register their experience and contact information. This website is produced with support from the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Contact: Autism Ontario, 1179A King Street West, Suite 004, Toronto, ON, M6K 3C5

Phone: 416-246-9592

www.autismontario.com/calypso

Health STAR

Through the County of Simcoe's Social Assistance Restructuring Reinvestment, the Health STAR program receives 100% municipal funding to deliver sport and recreation opportunities for low-income families. In addition to YMCA memberships and camps, children and youth have access to a range of activities, including, dance, soccer, hockey, skating, cheerleading, gymnastics and swimming to name a few. Aside from exposure to healthy lifestyles habits, children have the opportunity to develop in character and improve self esteem, build transferable skills as well as engage and be supported by their larger community.

Contact: 705-726-6421 ext. 429

Inclusive Recreation

The purpose of the Inclusive Recreation Services is to work in partnership with the recreation sector to promote and facilitate the inclusion of children in recreation and leisure activities in their community. Contact your local recreation program for information on camps, programs and inclusion services.

Jumpstart

Canadian Tire Jumpstart is a national charitable program that helps financially disadvantaged kids participate in organized sports and recreation. They help cover registration, equipment and/or transportation costs to help kids participate in a sport or recreational activity of their choice.

Applications for assistance can be submitted from Jan. 15 – June 1 for spring/summer programs, and from July 1 – Nov. 15 for fall/winter programs.

Contact: 1-877-616-6600

<http://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/en.html>

Kinark Outdoor Centre

Each year thousands of children and families experience the outdoors and live in peer groups through the structure of organized residential camps. The potential for positive social interaction and growth through a residential camp stay is significant. Even children with complex, neurological disorders can benefit from camp, provided the appropriate programs, staffing and supports are in place. Kinark Child and Family Services offers four program formats that support children, youth and families with Autism to participate in a residential camp experience: Family Respite Weekends, Summer Camp Sessions, ASD Adolescent Social Skills, and Summer Family Camp.

Contact: Box 730, Minden, Ontario, K0M 2K0

Phone: 705-286-3555 or 1-800-805-6184

<http://www.koc.on.ca/>

PRIVATE AGENCIES

Private Practitioners

Things to consider prior to accessing a Private Practitioner:

- Extended health care benefits or private insurance programs may cover private services
- You may need a doctor's referral in order to receive coverage through your insurance company
- Receipts may be applied to a medical income tax credit
- Ensure therapist has experience working with children with an ASD

ABACUS

The ABACUS website aims to serve as the best possible source of information so that parents, caregivers, and the general community can be informed consumers of Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Ontario. This website is produced with support from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Contact: Autism Ontario, 1179A King Street West, Suite 004, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 3C5

Phone: 416-246-9592 ext. 232

www.abacuslist.ca

Occupational Therapists (OT)

- Once you have chosen a private therapist, you can confirm that he/she is registered with the college by contacting the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario (COTO) at 1-800-890-6570 ext. 226 or online at www.coto.org

Physiotherapists (PT)

- Once you have chosen a private therapist, you can confirm that he/she is registered with the college by contacting the College of Physiotherapists at 1-800-583-5885 or online at www.collegept.org

Psychologists

- Telephone the Ontario Psychological Association at 1-800-268-0069

Social Workers

- Telephone the Ontario Association of Social Workers at 416-923-4848 and they will give you the names of three private practices that specialize in the area defined by you. Or you can go to www.findasocialworker.ca

Speech Language Pathologists (SLP)

- Contact the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologist of Ontario (CASLPO).
 - On the phone -1-800-993-9459
 - On the internet: Go to www.caslpo.com and under "welcome to CASLPO" click on "public information", next click on "find on a practitioner" and search by city

Spirale

Autism Ontario's Spirale website aims to serve as the best possible source for parents, caregivers and the general community to locate regulated professionals and experienced autism workers for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Ontario. The website, on which professionals self-register their experience and contact information, includes:

- Listings of regulated professionals
- Listings of experienced autism workers
- A Parent Guide
- A growing list of Q & A's (written with regulated professionals) aimed at helping parents get a sense of what to expect from a particular regulated professional who might provide service for their child or family.

www.autismontario.com/spirale

SUPPORT GROUPS

Autism Ontario-Simcoe County Chapter

Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community.

Parents of individuals with autism seek information about treatment methods, resources, current issues and research findings. We facilitate the sharing of autism-related information in several ways:

- 1) Providing free access to our website, recorded webinars and free access to our email newsgroup
- 2) Responding to requests for information from individuals and groups in the community by phone, email, or in person
- 3) Organizing workshops on a variety of topics
- 4) Connecting parents at our support group meetings
- 5) Promoting public awareness to assist in fostering tolerance and understanding through education in our community

Contact: Autism Ontario - Simcoe County Chapter, 80 Bradford St Unit 105, Barrie, Ontario L4N 6S7

Phone: 705-252-7429

Fax: 705-252-7431

www.autismontario.com/simcoe

Children's Treatment Network – (CTN)

- Various events and “Coffee Chats”

Contact: <http://www.ctnsy.ca/Events.aspx>

H.O.P.E.S. (helping other parents envision success)

This group is for any Parent/Guardian/Caregiver of a child with special needs between the ages of 2-8 years old living in North Simcoe, to learn/connect/share with other families.

Meetings take place at “ONE ROOF”, 230 Aberdeen Blvd. (corner of Bay St.) Midland ON

Contact:

Jessica Blauwkamp Preschool Resource Teacher 705-527-7022 x328 jblauwkamp@clhmidland.on.ca

Nancy Wright Family Resource Worker 705-526-6894 x2097 nwright@catulpa.on.ca

EDUCATION

Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB)

The mission of the SCDSB is to ensure students reach their full potential through quality programs which develop the skills of lifelong learning in a safe, caring environment enhanced by community support. The SCDSB advocates that:

- All students have equitable opportunities to learn and participate in inclusive school communities.
- Students' unique learning styles are recognized and planned for in a caring and sensitive manner, enabling them to learn and participate with dignity and respect.
- Students' strengths and special education needs are identified and responded to early, as this is paramount to their growth and development.
- Education services are delivered using a collaborative and flexible process centered on the strengths and needs of the students, inclusive of family, school, and community, and based on the best learning outcomes for the student.

Parents can register their child by contacting their home school or by calling the principal.

Contact: SCDSB Education Centre, 1170 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario, L0L 1X0

Phone for Simcoe County: 705-728-7570

Phone for Bradford, West Gwillimbury and New Tecumseth: 705-729-2265

www.scdsb.on.ca

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (SMCDSB)

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board is committed to living our vision:

"We are a Faith-Filled Catholic Learning Community Dedicated to Excellence".

We make a commitment to include all students in the learning experience. This commitment is central to the delivery of our special education programs and also speaks to our promise of nurturing a sense of belonging for all of our students.

Inclusion is about relationships and belonging. Inclusion is about the attitude that we have and is demonstrated through our actions toward each other. Inclusion is the responsibility of everyone. Inclusion is rooted in the Gospel.

Parents can register their child by contacting their home school or by calling the principal.

Contact: 46 Alliance Boulevard, Barrie, Ontario L4M 5K3

Phone: 705-722-3555

www.smcdsb.on.ca

Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud

En sa dignité d'enfant de Dieu, chaque élève a droit à une éducation de qualité. C'est pourquoi le Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud offre des services particuliers lorsque le personnel de l'école a des inquiétudes au sujet du rendement d'un élève ou de son adaptation à son milieu scolaire. Ces services spécialisés, qui font l'objet d'une recommandation par l'équipe-ressource de l'école, sont confidentiels et gratuits et sont assurés par un personnel d'expérience, compétent et qualifié.

Site Internet: www.csdccs.edu.on.ca

Conseil scolaire Viamonde

Les programmes et services destinés aux élèves qui éprouvent des difficultés d'apprentissage ont pour objet de leur assurer les mêmes chances d'épanouissement que les autres. Les besoins de ces élèves sont déterminés par un Comité d'Identification, de Placement et de Révision (CIPR). Les malentendants, les élèves souffrant de troubles de langage, les handicapés physiques, les enfants hospitalisés ou en institution, les enfants souffrant de troubles de comportement, de difficultés d'apprentissage, l'enfance inadaptée (au secondaire) et les surdoués sont définis comme étant des élèves en difficulté.

Contact: *Ecole élémentaire La Source – 70 Madelaine Drive, Barrie, Ontario, L4N 9T2 (705) 730-6625*

Académie la Pinede – 116 Waterloo Road East, Borden, Ontario, L0M 1C0 (705) 424-5664

Ecole publique St-Joseph – 30 Poyntz Street, Penetanguishene, Ontario, L9M 1N4 (705) 549-3124

www.csviamonde.ca

Penetanguishene Protestant Separate School Board

Burkevale Protestant Separate School is a unique and dynamic learning environment. Its continued relevance is due to a successful partnership between a variety of stakeholders who work together in the best interest of the children. The Burkevale staff is hard-working, caring and creative. The parents and guardians are actively involved as volunteers within the school, and on the School Council, which organizes a variety of events and fundraisers which enhance the school climate and provide funds for different educational activities and outings. The School Board provides significant support to the staff and students at Burkevale, and individuals and organizations within the local community help enrich our school environment.

Contact: *Unit 48, Box 107, 2 Poyntz Street, Penetanguishene, Ontario, L9M 1M2, (705) 549-6422*

Phone: 705-549-7456

www.pssbp.ca

RESPIRE SERVICES

What is respite?

Respite care is a family support service that provides temporary relief from the physical and emotional demands involved in caring for a family member who has a disability. Respite creates greater opportunities for all family members to live actively and participate in community activities and allows parents/guardians time for themselves.

respiteservices.com

A website that provides families, individuals and professionals with information and links to respite services in local communities across Ontario. Families may complete an online application outlining their respite needs and the Respite Coordinator will provide the family with profiles of CHAP (Community Helpers for Active Participation) workers who are available to interview and hire. The CHAP are self-employed and not employees of respiteservices.com or of the agencies affiliated with the program. Information and resources include connecting with workers and families via the CHAP Program, accessing respite services in local communities, events and training opportunities, as well as funding sources.

Contact: www.respiteservices.com/simcoe

Barrie, Innisfil, Bradford, Borden & Angus: Simcoe Community Services

Phone: 705-726-9082 ext. 2259

Alliston, Orillia, Midland, and Collingwood: Catulpa Community Support Services

Phone: 705-733-3227 ext. 2235

**MENTAL
HEALTH
SERVICES**

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)

CMHA offers service, support and education for individuals and families of Simcoe County experiencing effects of mental illness and addictions. CMHA Simcoe County Branch is a not-for-profit organization governed by a community Board of Directors and funded by the Local Integrated Health Network (LHIN), United Way, Ministry of Child and Youth Services and private donations.

Contact: 15 Bradford St Barrie ON L4N 1W2

705-726-5033 or 1-800-461-4319

Fax : 705-726-8629

info@cmhastarttalking.ca

<http://ontario.cmha.ca>

Kinark Child and Family Services - Barrie Branch - The Youth Mobile Crisis Response Services for children and youth is designed to provide mental health supports to children, youth, and families experiencing a crisis that is not imminently life threatening but would benefit from an immediate supportive response. Available to individuals 18 and under

Contact: 1-888-893-8333 (Toll Free)

705-728-5044 (Crisis Line)

New Path Youth and Family Services

New Path is an accredited multi-service children's mental health centre working with children and youth up to age 18 and their families whose are experiencing social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. New Path offers a Walk In Clinic Bradford, Alliston, Cookstown, Barrie, Orillia and Collingwood on a weekly basis. See our website www.newpath.ca for schedules. New Path also offers a range of services such as individual, family, and group counselling programs, early years services for children 0-6, school based counselling and support programs, parenting programs and residential services; although not all programs are available in each community.

Contact: 165 Ferris Lane, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 2Y1

Phone: Central Intake: 705-725-7656 or 1-866-566-7656

LIFT (Life Skills and Independence for Teens)

- Support
- Positive experiences
- Active participation
- Teens 13 to 19 years of age who are attending high school

Contact: 705-726-5033 ext. 213

WEBSITES & OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

Access 2 Card Offered Through Easter Seals
www.easterseals.ca/english/access-2-entertainment-card

Autism Parent Resource Kit
www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/specialneeds/autism/aprk/index.aspx

Autism Speaks Canada Toolkits
www.autismspeaks.ca/tool-kits/

Child, Youth & Family Services (CYFS) Coalition of Simcoe County
www.simcoecountycoalition.ca

City of Barrie
www.barrie.ca/Living/RecreationPrograms/Pages/InclusionServices.aspx

City of Orillia Inclusion Services
www.orillia.ca/en/livinginorillia/inclusionspecialneedsservices.asp

Easter Seals Society Incontinence Program
www.easterseals.org/services/incontinence-supplies-grant

Geneva Centre for Autism in Toronto
www.autism.net

Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders from the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
(Click <Health A-Z>, type in "Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders" in <Search A-Z Library>)
www.aboutkidshealth.ca

Mikey's Place
www.mikeysplaceforautism.com

Online Asperger's Syndrome Information and Support (OASIS)
www.aspergersyndrome.org

Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation Services
www.oacrs.com

Parent Books
www.parentbooks.ca

Redpath Centre
www.redpathcentre.ca

University of Michigan Autism and Communication Disorder Centre
www.umaccweb.com

YMCA Inclusion Services
www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/news/ymca-day-camp-inclusion-programs/

There are many helpful resources available on the Ministry of Education Website www.edu.gov.on.ca including the following:

- 1) Effective Educational Practices for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Resource Guide 2007. *This resource guide is designed to support educators in elementary and secondary schools in Ontario in planning and implementing effective educational programs for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). It contains information, strategies, and practices that can be put to use in the school and classroom.*
- 2) Policy/Program Memorandum No. 140. Incorporating Methods of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) into programs for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). *The purpose of this memorandum is to provide direction to school boards to support their use of applied behaviour analysis (ABA) as an effective instructional approach in the education of many students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).*
- 3) Shared Solutions: A Guide to Preventing and Solving Conflicts Regarding Programs and Services for Students with Special Education Needs, 2007
The resource guide is intended to help parents, educators, and students with special education needs work together to prevent conflicts, resolve them quickly, and allow students to develop their full potential and succeed in school
- 4) Planning Entry to School, A Resource Guide, Ministry of Education, Ontario, 2005
This resource guide is intended as a resource for school boards to use with their professional staff, parents/guardians, and community partners. It will enable boards to:
 - *Explore different ways to facilitate successful entry to school for all children, including children with special needs; and*
 - *Enhance their entry-to-school process.*
- 5) Home Schooling and Partial School Attendance PPM 131
This memorandum provides direction to school boards and schools concerning policies related to home schooling and the excusing of children from school who are receiving home schooling.
- 6) The Individual Education Plan, A Resource Guide, 2004
This guide is intended to help teachers and others working with students with special needs to develop, implement, and monitor high-quality Individual Education Plans (IEPs). A five-step process is recommended.
- 7) Special Education, A Guide for Educators, 2001
This has all the current information about the special education system, with the exception of the funding being out of date.
- 8) Suspension and Expulsion of Exceptional Students
Memorandum of settlement April 13, 2007 between Ontario Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Education and school boards. As of Feb 1, 2008, exceptional students cannot be suspended if the behaviour is related to their disability. Parents should provide a list of disability related behaviours that may be a problem in school. PPM 142, 143 and 145. Information also available on Ontario Human Rights Commission website www.ohrc.on.ca

9) Transition Planning: A Resource Guide, 2002

The transition from school to work, further education, and community living can be particularly challenging for some exceptional students. This guide presents a range of suggestions from which educators may select ideas that would be useful in their particular local context. It provides detailed examples of steps for implementing the policy, in order to assist all those involved in the transition planning process.

10) Making a Difference for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Ontario Schools: From Evidence to Action; Report of the Ministers' Autism Spectrum Disorders Reference Group to: Minister of Education and Minister of Children and Youth Services, 2007

From September 2006 through January 2007, the Ministers' Autism Spectrum Disorders Reference Group, conducted an extensive review, discussion and evaluation of evidence- based practices which have been found most effective in meeting the wide range of needs of students with ASD. This document provides a concise overview of the discussions held by the Reference Group, and its final recommendations regarding province-wide implementation of practices to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Other helpful resources on the internet:

www.dsto.com

Disability Services Toronto has an excellent guide to transition planning for parents of children with a developmental disability called **Connections**. This is applicable to individuals with an ASD as well as individuals with a developmental delay.

www.canchild.ca

The KIT: Keeping it Together™ is an organizational tool for parents caring for children with disabilities, developed by CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research, and the Hamilton Family Network. It is a way to organize information for your child, and to assist you when interacting with different service systems, for example, health, education, and recreation. Included is a User's Guide that will help you through the initial process of how to use the KIT. It is useful for parents of children with a wide variety of special need and all developmental ages from birth to 21 years.

www.wrightslaw.com

Is a weekly newsletter from parent trainers/lawyers with lots of helpful advice. This is from the United States and therefore the law related information does not apply in Ontario.