

# Children's disABILITY Services

Family Supports for Children  
with Disabilities



## THE PROGRAM

### What is Children's disABILITY Services?

This program, provided through Manitoba Families, supports families who are raising a child (or children) with developmental or physical disabilities, to meet the additional needs they may have.

### How does Children's disABILITY Services help families?

Children's disABILITY Services offers a variety of resources and supports to parents to assist them to care for their children at home in their own communities, where children grow and thrive.

### Does my child qualify?

Children under the age of 18, who live in Manitoba with their birth, adoptive or extended families, are eligible. Eligible children must also have a medical diagnosis confirming one or more of the following conditions:

- intellectual disability
- developmental delay
- autism spectrum disorder
- lifelong physical disability
- high probability of developmental delay due to a pre-existing condition

\*For the purposes of this brochure, the word "parent" is used to represent a birth, adoptive or extended family member who takes care of a child under the age of 18 in their home.



## How do I apply?

Some families are referred to Children's disABILITY Services by medical professionals, schools, and child care facilities. You may also apply to the program directly by submitting an application form, along with written confirmation of your child's diagnosis, to the Children's disABILITY Services office in your region. The application form is available at [www.manitoba.ca/fs/cds](http://www.manitoba.ca/fs/cds).



## What happens next?

If your child qualifies for the program, a Children's disABILITY Services worker will connect with your family to look at your specific situation, and talk to you about your needs, goals and care concerns. The worker will provide you with information about supports that may be available through Children's disABILITY Services and other agencies, such as child care facilities, schools and volunteer organizations.

The worker can also help you arrange for the services you need and, as long as your child remains eligible for Children's disABILITY Services, a worker may remain involved until your child is 18, or you no longer need these services.

## THE SERVICES

Children's disABILITY Services offers a range of services and supports. Many can be provided at home, in a child care centre, at school or at another site chosen by the therapist or a Children's disABILITY Services worker.

\* Please note: The amount of service a family receives depends on eligibility, assessed need and the program resources available.

### Respite

Respite is a break from the very unique demands of caring for a child with disabilities. It is available to parents who need a short-term break, and can be provided in or outside the child's home. For children who have lifelong, complex medical needs, respite can be provided by a registered nurse through the local regional health authority.

### Therapy

Children who need therapy services will be referred to their regional central intake for the **Children's Therapy Network of Manitoba** (CTNM). Families can also self refer. Therapies that may be available include occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and audiology. For more information please visit [www.manitoba.ca/fs/ctnm/](http://www.manitoba.ca/fs/ctnm/)



## Child Development Services for Preschool Children

Child Development staff work with parents to identify their child's strengths and goals. Staff teach parents and caregivers ways to help the child develop and learn new skills.

## Autism Services

**Autism Outreach:** This service teaches parents and caregivers autism intervention methods that are personalized and flexible. Autism specialists work closely with Child Development staff to deliver the service.

**Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA):** Programming based on the principles of ABA is available for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Programs are personalized and use behavioural strategies to teach skills across a number of areas.

## Behavioural Services

Behavioural specialists may assess a child's challenging behaviours, and together with the family, develop a plan that addresses the child's needs.

## Summer Skills Programming

Children's disABILITY Services can help school-age children maintain their skills during the summer months. This is done by providing supports children need to access programs and activities that promote what they have learned during the school year.



## Adolescent Care (Employment Support)

Care and supervision may be available for adolescents who can no longer access child care, but still need to be looked after and supervised outside school hours, while their parents are at work, attend school or training.



## Supplies, Equipment and Home/Vehicle Modifications

Children's disABILITY Services may provide funding for certain supplies, equipment and home or van modifications at a basic level. These supports are provided through the Disability and Health Supports Unit (DHSU). For more information on what is available, visit [www.manitoba.ca/fs/dhsu](http://www.manitoba.ca/fs/dhsu)



## Transportation

Families may receive financial support to help with the costs of transportation to and from their child's medical appointments and other specialized services. This support is mainly provided to families in rural and northern Manitoba.

## What are the limits to these services?

Children's disABILITY Services recognizes that each family's circumstances are different, and assesses the needs of each family individually. The amount of service a family receives depends on eligibility, assessed need and the program resources available.

## Who can I contact for more information?

To speak with someone about Children's disABILITY Services, please contact the program office in your community.

To find a program office, visit [www.manitoba.ca/fs/cds/locations.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/fs/cds/locations.html) or call 204-945-8311.



# Children's disABILITY Services

believes that parents  
and family members  
are the most important  
people in a child's life,  
and that parents know  
best the needs of their  
family and their child.



For more information, please contact  
Children's disABILITY Services.

Phone: 204-945-8311  
[cds@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cds@gov.mb.ca)

[manitoba.ca/fs/cds](https://manitoba.ca/fs/cds)

Available in alternate formats upon request.