

Family

Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.

Jane Howard

Autism

Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is one of a group of 5 disorders that fall under the label of Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PPD).

These 5 disorders are Autism

- Autism
- Asperger's Syndrome
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PPD NOS)
- Rett's Disorder
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder

Autism typically appears during the first three years of life, although with Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism, a diagnosis may not be made until the child is in the education system.



There is no known medical test for ASD. The diagnosis is made by a pediatrician or psychologist and is based on observations of the child's communication, social skills and general behaviour.

Although some signs and symptoms of children with ASD might be similar, no single learning approach or therapy can be applied to every child.

Our programs are individualized to meet specific developmental needs to enable each child to reach his or her full potential.

We help families dealing with Autism through these programs:

The Autism Intervention Program uses an Intensive Behavioral Intervention (IBI) approach to improve key learning skills in the key areas of cognitive, language and social development for children or youth with moderate to severe Autism. IBI is based on the scientific principals of Applied Behavior Analysis.

The program individualizes a comprehensive range of clinically appropriate goals targeting a broad range of developmental areas. Intervention is ordinarily provided intensely and requires between 20 and 40 hours of therapy per week. Children or youth who experience significant benefit will show increased readiness for participation in the educational and other community programs.

The program will support children or youth in their integration and generalization of gains from IBI into the school setting. Up to one year of transition support is available to assist this process.

Behaviour Communication Therapy Services

Through parent coaching, Behaviour Communication Therapy Services teaches a child with ASD positive behaviours and appropriate skills.

Through consultations with parents, Hands facilitators provide direct therapy through in-home coaching, develop behavioural protocols with parents and/or community team including a functional behaviour assessment.

A Hands facilitator who specializes in ASD coordinates programming between home, school and community, provides skills training sessions to small groups of children and adolescents, and provides education and prevention in-service on topics related to ASD behaviour.

Intake/Waitlist Coordination – obtains information from families and determines what services are appropriate for the family; provides support and brief service to the family in coordinating and navigating community services.

Enhanced Respite – Crisis – provide families with additional funds to extend number of respite hours to support their child during a short term challenging situation.

Enhanced Respite – Special Activities – support the creation of new activities or the expansion of existing activities, creating more choice for parents to utilize their respite dollars.



Hands

TheFamilyHelpNetwork.ca

Helping families and everyone in them.

For more information call the toll free number at 1.800.668.8555 or visit the website at www.thefamilyhelpnetwork.ca.