



All About Autism 2011/2012



RESOURCE LIST FOR PARENTS

Early Signs of Autism – Receiving a Diagnosis

- The **Early Signs of Autism** may appear quite young (12 -24 month of age) for some children. Recognizing these symptoms early will allow you to get a diagnosis and access interventions earlier. **Don't wait and See!** Speak to your child's physician about the early signs of a social communication delay or risk for Autism. Early signs in a very young child may include: not looking up when you call his/her name; not waving Hi and Bye; not pointing to body parts or pictures in books; not pointing to objects to request them; not using words to interact with others or a loss of words; is more interested in objects than in people.
- **The Early Signs Clinic** is a partnership with Children First and The Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism, providing Psychological Assessments for toddlers and young children to obtain (or rule out) a diagnosis of Autism. Your child can be referred to the Early Signs Clinic by a parent or your child's doctor. Call Children First and report your suspicion of Autism. Preschool Speech/Language Pathologists from Children First, John McGivney Children's Centre or Talk 2 Me/St. Mary's Family Learning Centre may refer your child, following a speech/language assessment, to the Early Signs Clinic for a diagnosis with your consent. There is no charge for these assessments.
- Children age 6-18 years of age may be referred to Windsor Regional Children's Centre for a diagnosis.
- You may choose to pay for a **private assessment**. A diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can only be made by a Psychologist or specially trained doctor. Visit the Autism Resource Library for an up-to-date private practice list. You should investigate the qualifications of anyone providing private assessments or treatment.
- When your child receives a **Psychological Assessment**, be sure to request a written diagnosis. Many intervention programs require a written diagnosis or report in order to put your child on a waiting list.
- Request a referral to a **Pediatrician** to get a full medical evaluation to rule out any medical causes for the delays. Many medical conditions may co-exist with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Early Intervention Programs

Children First - 519-250-1850 www.children-first.ca

- Children First provides services to families and children birth to 6 years who have developmental and/or mental health challenges. Services may include assessment, consultation and intervention, and support and advocacy. Services may occur in family's homes, in-centre and in licensed child care centres, in Windsor and Essex County. Staff include speech/language pathologists, social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists and resource consultants. Parents may self refer by calling our Intake and Brief Services Team.

John McGivney Children's Centre - 519-252-7281 www.jmccentre.ca

- For children and youth up to 21 years of age with disabilities and special needs. Rehabilitative services may include: speech/language therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

Talk 2 Me - St. Mary's Family Learning Centre - 519-252-0636 www.smflc.ca

- The local Preschool Speech and Language Program for children up to 5 years of age. Services may include: speech/language assessments, intervention, educational workshops and parent programs including: More than Words - The Hanen Program for Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Related Social communication Disorders; and TalkAbility – The Hanen Program for Parents of Verbal Children with High Functioning Autism or Aspergers Syndrome.

Thames Valley Children's Centre - Autism Program – 519-685-8716

- Toll Free 1-866-516-5368 www.tvcc.on.ca
Autism Intervention Program is for children who have been diagnosed with autism toward the severe end of the autism spectrum. The goal of this program is to give high quality intensive behaviour therapy that helps children achieve their greatest level of independence, become part of their community and continue to make gains even after they no longer are in service.

The Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism - 519-255-1195

- www.summitcentre.org or email info@summitcentre.org
Registered charity providing early intensive behavioural intervention to children with a diagnosis in the autism spectrum up to the age of 6. The centre has 2 main programs 1. Children receive 5 full days of 1-on-1 treatment (must be 48 months or younger at beginning of treatment) and 2. A 12-week intensive parent training course where parents learn to provide treatment to their children (must be under 5 years 8 months at the beginning of treatment).

Windsor Regional Children's Centre - 519-257-5215

- For children ages 6-18 years old. A mental health centre specializing in social, emotional, developmental, and/or behavioural issues. There is an autism and related disorders program which provides behavioural consultation, assessment, group and individual treatment for children on the spectrum.

Local Contacts Specific to Autism

Autism Ontario Windsor-Essex Chapter

519-250-1893 autismwindsor@gmail.com

A charity organization that raises money in order to offer funding and support to our local families. Membership fee of \$50 includes free annual summer picnic, Holiday party, additional summer funding support and so much more are provided with your yearly Autism Ontario membership.



Potential Programme - A program of Autism Ontario

andrea@autismontario.com

This program connects families with resources in the community and helps to organize social skill groups, family support groups, community events, speakers and workshops.



Autism Services Inc. (ASI)

519-966-7283 www.autismservicesinc.com

ASI offers a seven week Summer Program to individuals with a diagnosis of Autism ages 6-21 years. ASI is in partnership with the Windsor Police Services coordinating the Autism Registry see other key support options below for more information. They also have an extensive Resource Lending Library with books, videos, DVD's, software and educational toys that can be borrowed free of charge.



Accessing Supports Including Funding and Services

- **Easter Seals** 519-944-0044 Ext. 223 www.easterseals.org for children 3 years of age and up with incontinence issues. Funding is provided for supplies. Receipts for supplies must be submitted annually. See your family doctor to complete necessary paperwork.
- **Family Respite Services** provides help to find respite providers or in home workers through a database called respiteservices.com. Families who have funding are able to advertise for a respite provider and screened respite providers are able to post their qualifications and availability. No identifying information is viewed on line. Visit www.respiteservices.org (Windsor Essex) to register or call FRS for more information 519-972-9688.
- **SSAH - Special Services At Home** 519-972-9688 (Family Respite Services coordinates SSAH in Windsor and Essex County.) SSAH helps children with developmental disabilities and their families by providing funding to purchase services and supports.
- **ACSD - Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities** 519-254-1651 This government program provides financial help to assist with some of the extra costs of caring for a child with a disability. Financial and medical criteria must be met.
- **Ministry of Children and Youth Services** www.children.gov.on.ca Click on 'Special Needs' on that site for the latest government information about supports and services.
- **Help Link Access Services** 519-252-2313. Information, referral and community service coordination for children, youth and families in Windsor-Essex.
- **We R Kids Mental Health** werkidsmentalhealth.ca A website developed to assist in the search for services, supports and resources in the area of mental health for children and youth in Windsor and Essex County.
- **ODSP - Ontario Disability Support Program** 519-254-1651 Income and/or Employment Supports for persons with a disability who are 18 years or older. Check the Ministry of Community and Social Services website for more info www.mcscs.gov.on.ca
- **Developmental Services Ontario: South West Region** 1-877-480-2726
This is your access point to apply for Adult Developmental Funding and Services including Passport funding to purchase supports for community participation after high school.
- **Windsor Essex Brokerage** 519- 966-8094 webps@mnsi.net
Unencumbered planning support for individuals with a developmental disability and their families. Mediates between the person requiring services and those offering them. Assists with the formal and informal contractual agreements for services purchased when requested.

Other Key Support Options

Disability Tax Credit is for people who have a severe and prolonged mental or physical disability and is claimed through annual income tax submission. The form to use from the Canada Revenue Agency is a T2201. For previous years you would request form T1-ADJ.

Accessibility Parking Permit - APP (Formerly known as Disabled Person Parking Permit) You may qualify for this permit because Autism is a neurological disorder. The form, to be completed by a physician, can be found at www.mto.gov.on.ca by typing 'APP' in the search bar at that site.

Project Lifesaver 519-982-9988 for a GPS safety tracking device for your child should darting or wandering be an issue. A set-up fee and monthly fee will apply.

Street Signs for Windsor and Essex County that say 'Autistic Child Area' can be obtained by calling Shirley at Autism Ontario Windsor-Essex 519-250-1893.

Autism Registry for families with a child/independent adult with autism spectrum disorders who reside in Windsor (or attend school or daycare in Windsor). This is a partnership with the Windsor Police Services and Autism Services Inc. The Autism Registry promotes communication and gives police access to critical information about a registered person with ASD in a police emergency. To access the online registry and for more information visit www.police.windsor.on.ca/online_reporting/autism_registry/

What to Look for in Your Community

Ontario Early Years Centres

These are free 'stay and play drop-in centres' where parents and caregivers of children can participate in early learning activities and parenting programs www.ontarioearlyyears.ca

Nursery Schools, Preschools, Daycares

Explore what's in the community as an option for your child to benefit from socialization in a language-rich environment. Make visits, ask questions.

Local Recreational Programs and Services: Check out any of the following:

- Special Olympics Windsor 519-250-4024
- Windsor/Essex Therapeutic Riding Association 519-726-7682
- SPEQTRA Special Equestrian Therapeutic Riding Association 519-322-2463
- Access 2 Entertainment Card www.access2.ca
- City of Windsor Parks and Rec offers a 10% discount for special needs children
- Municipal recreational and swimming programs in Windsor and Essex County usually allow for a support worker, friend or family member to attend as well to support the child at no additional cost. Ask ahead.
- Parks and Recreation Autism Group Swimming www.reconnectwindsor.ca
- Special Stars Soccer 519-974-2833 patrickroberts0005@gmail.com
- Miracle League Baseball 519-919-4641 www.amherstburgmiracle.com/index.html

Various Parent Support Groups:

- High Functioning Autism Group Call 519-972-8381 or 519-972-927 for more information
- The Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism 519-255-1195
All parents welcome. Typically the last Monday of the month from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Childcare for the parent's child with autism is provided as long as parents call the centre prior to the group. See the centre website for the monthly topic. www.summitcentre.org
- Windsor-Essex Family Network 519-974-1008
See Sibling Support Groups & Educational Workshops/Learning events for more information or email info@windsoressexfamnet.ca
- Ensemble 519-776-6486 Ext. 225 See Sibling Support Groups & Educational Workshops/Learning events for more information or email ensemble@communitylivingessex.org

Sibling Support Groups:

- Family Respite Services and Children First work together to provide a group for children between the ages of 7-11 who have siblings with disabilities. The fun group is run monthly, with games and activities and opportunities to share experiences. Call Family Respite Services 519-972-9688 or Children First 519-250-1850 to register.
- The Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism 519-255-1195
Any siblings welcome from ages 5-12. A teen group is in the works to start in 2012. This group runs at the same time as our monthly parent group.

Educational Workshops/Learning Events

- **All About Autism (AAA):** This is a series of FREE workshops offered monthly with local guest speakers for parents, caregivers, respite workers, educators and educational assistants. The Autism Ontario Windsor Essex RCP program, ASI and a dedicated group of parent volunteers coordinates these workshops with the help of these community partners: Children First; Ensemble; Family Respite Services; John McGivney Children's Centre; Talk2Me; Thames Valley Children's Centre-Autism Program; The Summit Centre; Windsor Essex Family Network and Windsor Regional Children's Centre. For more information Contact ASI 519-966-7283 autism@mdirect.net or Andrea at the Potential Programme andrea@autismontario.com
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder Education Series:** These are monthly workshops offered by Thames Valley Children's Centre. Contact Carrie Connell 1-866-516-5368 Ext. 53367 or email carriec@tvcc.on.ca for an up to date list of local area workshops.
- **Windsor Essex Family Network** offers annual learning events that are co-ordinated by family leaders in partnership with others. Topics include: special education information, Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP); Wills and Estate Planning; Disability Tax Credit; My Home, My Choice; participation and contribution in community, ideas for after high school; support worker information; and more. Families volunteer and share their personal stories; experts/professionals share their knowledge. Windsor Essex Family Network also offers the following activities aimed at strengthening families at every stage along their journey: family-to-family linking and mentoring; the provision of information and resource materials; family gatherings on topics of common interest; and working to share a collective family voice. For more information call 519-974-1008 or email info@windsoressexfamnet.ca
- **The Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism** Provides Introduction to Applied Behaviour Analysis workshops twice a year. Check our website for the dates www.summitcentre.org

- **ENSEMBLE** - A parent-directed resource organization for parents who have children with disabilities or special needs. Support is provided from diagnosis to adulthood. They provide ongoing information and learning opportunities for families through their website: www.ensembleunderstands.com Families who register with Ensemble will receive weekly tips, on-going parent to parent support, upcoming events and networking opportunities. The Ensemble Team has produced many other resource tools like the book "Special Kids, Special Parents" and we work in partnership with the community to offer a family's perspective in decision-making, public awareness and sharing ideas for inclusion. For more info call 519-776-6486 Ext. 225 or email: ensemble@communitylivingessex.org

Preparing For Elementary School

- **Assistance Navigating the System:** Autism Ontario, Windsor-Essex Chapter provides assistance in navigating the school system. They also have Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) representatives for each school board who advocate for educational services in school. Call 519-250-1893 or email autismwindsor@gmail.com
- **'School Entry, Learn More About Registering Your Children with Special Needs for Kindergarten':** Annual information events held in January each year that are sponsored by Windsor Essex Family Network and the Enhancing Family Support for Education group. Call 519-974-1008 or email info@windsorsexfamnet.ca
- **Parent Tips for School Entry and Beyond:** A book written by families for families to assist parents in Windsor and Essex County with entry and very early years in school. Available in English and French. Contact Windsor Essex Family Network (info above).
- **Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC): Connections for Students** is a collaborative initiative designed to facilitate the smooth transition of child with Autism Spectrum Disorder from Autism Intervention Programs to publicly funded school boards in Ontario. www.tvcc.on.ca
- **TVCC School Support Program - Autism Spectrum Disorder (SSP-ASD):** is a partnership with the Ministry of Education. The program allows school boards to access additional supports for educators to meet the needs of children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in both elementary and secondary school. www.tvcc.on.ca
- **'Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and More':** Annual information sessions held in September and April each year lead by Windsor Essex Family Network in partnership with the Enhancing Family Support for Education group, Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board and Greater Essex County District School Board. To get the dates and learn more call 519-974-1008 or email: info@windsorsexfamnet.ca

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