

Department of Health and Social Services

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Resources Available for Children with Disabilities

* Contact information for all programs and services are available on the HSS website in "Where can I find... A Guide to Services for Persons with Disabilities in the Northwest Territories".

Council for Persons with DisabilitiesEarly Childhood Intervention Program

- Offers support to preschool children with disabilities or developmental delays and their families.
- Early Childhood Intervention Workers work with children individually, in community preschools or in the child's home.
- Children with disabilities, supported by the Council for Persons with Disabilities Early Intervention Program, may attend one of the following Early Childhood Education Programs: Yellowknife Playschool Association, Aboriginal Head Start, 4 Plus Program at Weledeh and the Yellowknife Family Centre.
- Staff support 12-15 children each year aged between 0-6 years.
- Offers Respite services in Hay River.
- Funded by the Healthy Children Initiative through ECE.

Early Childhood Development Programs

Programs are funded by Health Canada, Community Action Plan for Children and ECE.

- Programs provide parent support and referral. Children with special needs may require support to attend programs.

Growing Together – Hay River (0-6 years of age)

Tree House Drop – In Centre for Families and Children – Hay River (0-6 years of age)

Open Doors Society – Fort Simpson (0-6 years of age)

Healthy Baby Clubs – Yellowknife, Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith (prenatal to 1 year)

- Drop in program for new parents for socialization, to support nutrition, and provide parenting information and support.

Aboriginal Head Start – available in 8 communities across the NWT (3-5 years of age)

- Parents are not charged for their children to attend.

Yellowknife Catholic Schools Yellowknife Family Centre – Yellowknife (0-6 years of age)

- Staff who identify concerns about a child's development will provide on going support to parents and provide a referral for intervention support.

Health and Social ServicesStanton Territorial Health Authority Child Development Team

- A multidisciplinary team that provides diagnostic services and develops effective intervention plans for children with complex developmental needs and their families.
- Provides regional and territorial assessment, rehabilitation services, referral and follow up support for children 0-16.
- Core Service funded by the DHSS.

Rehabilitation Services

- Rehabilitation services in the form of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech language pathology are provided for children 0-16 years of age by Regional Health Authorities: Beaufort-Delta HSSA (provides services to the Sahtu), Fort Smith HSSA, and Hay River HSSA. The Child Development Team services the remaining regions.
- Core Service provided by the DHSS.

Department of Health and Social Services

Healthy Family Program

- Provides support, referrals, and intensive home visiting services to families with young children (0-5 years of age). Entry in program: prenatal to 6 months.
- Four sites currently exist: Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River and Behchoko.
- Funded by the DHSS.

Voluntary Service Agreements (VSA)

- VSA's are available to families, with children 0-16 years of age, to promote the healthy development of their children.
- The Child and Family Services Act mandates that supports are available for families in need. A few examples of services available include: respite, social work support, counseling, preschool education assistance, assistance with case management or rehab services in the Health Authorities.
- VSA's are voluntary at the parents' request. A family does not have to have a child protection concern to access services.
- Funded by the DHSS and delivered through the Authorities.

Southern Placement

- Children in care under the Child and Family Services Act may receive services at a southern treatment facility or a foster home specializing in care of children with disabilities.
- Costs of services are paid by the DHSS, however children must have a Children and Family Services status (which could be a VSA).

Home Care

- Provides support services to families that will assist clients to remain living within his or her home. These services might include medical respite, medication management, or social support etc.
- Any age is eligible for services.
- Program is funded by DHSS.

Children's Counseling Services

- Counseling services for children and their families who are clients of the YHSSA.

Yellowknife Association For Community Living

Respite

- Provides safe, individualized and flexible respite support to families/primary caregivers of individuals, both children and adults, who have a disability.
- Services are available to individuals of any age.
- Funded by DHSS through the YKHSSA.

Family Project

- Works with families and schools to ensure a positive inclusive school experience for students with disabilities.
- The Social Development Canada's Community Inclusion Initiative funds the Family Project.

Bosco Homes – Territorial Treatment Centre

- An intensive coeducational treatment program for eight children and adolescents, 7-14 years of age, from the Northwest Territories suffering from social, emotional, behavioural and/or other psychological difficulties.
- Funded by the DHSS.

Department of Health and Social Services

Centre for Northern Families – Family Support Program (Yellowknife)

- Offers a family resource and early intervention program for families with children 0-6 years.
- Support is provided in a family centered approach.
- Together the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program, through the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Healthy Children Initiative, through ECE, fund this program.

NWT Schools

- Significant training has been provided to teachers assisting children with disabilities.
- Education Culture and Employment provides inclusive schooling funds to the schools to provide assistants and other supports based on the number of children with disabilities that are attending.
- According to the Education Act, NWT schools are legislated to ensure that supports are in place to allow the student to be able to do what the student needs to be able to do, that the student cannot do now, with as much independence as possible.

Foster Family Coalition

- Training and support for foster parents.
- Advocates for children receiving services under the Children and Family Services Act.
- Funded by DHSS.

Autism Society of the NWT

- Library of resources on Autism for all ages.
- Network of parents for support and advocacy .

Child Care Subsidy

- Income Support Child Subsidy is available throughout the NWT.
- Funding is based on income and is distributed by ECE.

Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities of All Ages

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation program.
- Offers financial assistance to homeowners to undertake accessibility work to modify dwelling occupied or intended for occupancy by low-income persons with disabilities.
- Funded by the NWT Housing Corporation.

NWT Community Counseling Program

- Provide communities with support and counseling in the area of addiction, mental health and family violence.
- Funded by the DHSS.

