

### Is my child eligible?

### Where can I get more information?

#### Health and Wellness

Your child may be eligible if he or she

- ✓ has a valid Alberta Personal Health number or card
- ✓ requires assessment, diagnosis, treatment, support services and/or medical care

**Regional Health Authority** – Health services are delivered through 9 Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) across the province and vary by region. To find out the number of your RHA, phone 310-0000 or go to [www.health.gov.ab.ca/regions/RHA\\_map.html](http://www.health.gov.ab.ca/regions/RHA_map.html)

**Health Link Alberta** – 24-hour-a-day/7 days-a-week province-wide nurse telephone advice and health information service. Call toll-free: 1-866-408-LINK (5465); Capital Health (Edmonton): 408-LINK (5465); Calgary Health Region: 943-LINK (5465).

**www.healthlinkalberta.ca** – Online library of health topics developed by Alberta clinical experts with links to health services

#### Seniors and Community Supports

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL)

Your child may be eligible if he or she

- ✓ has a valid Alberta Personal Health number or card
- ✓ was assessed by a qualified health professional
- ✓ requires the benefit due to a long term disability or illness (6 months or longer) or is end-stage palliative
- ✓ meets additional eligibility criteria for a specific benefit
- ✓ has a valid authorization form completed and signed by a registered AADL authorizer

**Regional Health Authority** – Health services are delivered through 9 regional health authorities (RHAs) across the province and vary by region. To find out the number of your RHA, phone 310-0000 or go to [www.health.gov.ab.ca/regions/RHA\\_map.html](http://www.health.gov.ab.ca/regions/RHA_map.html)

**Your home care provider** (for those already receiving home care)

**Alberta Aids to Daily Living Program** – Dial 310-0000 (toll free) and then (780) 427-0731 when prompted.

[www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/AADL](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/AADL)

#### Children's Services

Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD)

Your child may be eligible if he or she

- ✓ has been diagnosed as having a disability or chronic health condition or impairment that significantly limits the child's ability to participate in normal daily living, *if the primary need is not for medical health care services*

**Child and Family Services Authorities** – Services for children with disabilities and their families are delivered through 10 regional Child and Family Service Authorities (CFSAs). To find out the number of your CFSA, phone 310-0000 or go to [www.child.gov.ab.ca](http://www.child.gov.ab.ca) and click on Regional Authorities.

**Child Disability Resource Link** – 1-866-346-4661 (toll free) or (780) 427-2551. Provides disability-related information and the telephone number of the nearest CFSA office

**Parent Link Centres** – [www.parentlinkalberta.ca](http://www.parentlinkalberta.ca)

Inclusive Child Care

Your child may be eligible if he or she

- ✓ is 7 years old or under and not in Grade 1
- ✓ has assessed developmental needs that present a barrier to successful inclusion in a child care program

First priority is given to children of parents who work, attend post-secondary education/training or who may themselves have a special need.

**Parent Information Line** – 1-866-714-5437. Province-wide toll-free line provides information on all licensed and approved child care programs

**Parent Link Centres** – [www.parentlinkalberta.ca](http://www.parentlinkalberta.ca)

#### Education

Your child may be eligible if, on September 1, he or she is

- ✓ 2½ to 5 years old with a diagnosed severe disability/delay that has a very significant impact on the child's safety and/or ability to learn
- OR
- ✓ 3½ to 5 years old and assessed as having a mild/moderate disability/delay that interferes with the child's safety and/or ability to learn

**Your school jurisdiction** or **private early childhood services program** approved by Alberta Education. Refer to your local phone book or [www.education.gov.ab.ca/ei/maps/](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/ei/maps/) for contact information.

**Special Programs Branch** – Dial 310-0000 (toll free) and then (780) 422-6326 when prompted

The purpose of this brochure is to provide basic information about the kinds of services funded by the government of Alberta to support the development of young children who have special needs. Based on assessed need, services range from specific, short-term help to comprehensive, ongoing support. These services are funded primarily through four distinct-but-linked provincial ministries: Education, Health and Wellness, Children's Services, and Seniors and Community Supports.

Ensuring that children are safe, healthy and ready to learn is the most important goal of any society. Investing in families and communities through services that support healthy child development creates the foundation for a strong society and economy.



**To call toll free  
from anywhere in Alberta  
310-0000**

**or from a cell phone**

\*310 (Rogers) #310 (TELUS and Bell)

**Deaf/hard-of-hearing callers with a TDD/TTY,**  
call 427-9999 in Edmonton or  
1-800-232-7215 throughout Alberta

**First Nations and Inuit children** may be eligible for services provided by the federal government. For more information, contact Indian and Northern Affairs Canada toll free at 1-800-567-9604 or visit [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca)

# Distinct *but* Linked

**Government of Alberta Services  
for *Preschool Children*  
with Special Needs**

[www.informalberta.ca](http://www.informalberta.ca)

A provincial online directory of publicly funded and/or not-for-profit community, health, social, and government organizations.

Health and Wellness  
[www.health.gov.ab.ca](http://www.health.gov.ab.ca)

Education  
[www.education.gov.ab.ca](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca)

Children's Services  
[www.child.gov.ab.ca](http://www.child.gov.ab.ca)

Seniors and Community Supports  
[www.seniors.gov.ab.ca](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca)

	What health and health-related services can I access for my child?	What supports are available to help with my child's learning and development?	What behaviour support and counselling services are available to support my child?	Is there help for me as a parent?
Health and Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Physician services</li> <li>✓ Acute care/hospital services including specialized assessment and diagnostic services</li> <li>✓ Screening and counselling for hereditary diseases</li> <li>✓ Home/community care and support (e.g., case coordination, nursing)</li> <li>✓ Screening, assessment, and rehabilitation services (e.g., speech-language services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, audiology, respiratory therapy)</li> <li>✓ Mental health services</li> <li>✓ Optometry</li> <li>✓ Immunization, health promotion and illness/injury prevention information and services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Early intervention programs for children who are between birth and 3½ years of age and have developmental delays or disabilities</li> <li>✓ Preschool developmental screening</li> <li>✓ Assessment and treatment clinics/services</li> <li>✓ Rehabilitation services</li> </ul>	<p>Service and supports vary by region but may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mental health services (e.g., assessment, diagnosis, treatment, referral to other professionals) available through community mental health clinics and contracted community agencies</li> <li>✓ Crisis services (e.g., crisis lines, in-patient and out-patient programs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Advice from your family physician, pediatrician, or local health region clinic/office</li> <li>✓ Health Link Alberta 1-866-408-LINK</li> <li>✓ Online resources related to healthy child development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.health.gov.ab.ca">www.health.gov.ab.ca</a> (e.g., All About Me Growth and Development Series)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.healthlinkalberta.ca">www.healthlinkalberta.ca</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.informalberta.ca">www.informalberta.ca</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Seniors and Community Supports	<p>Medical equipment and supplies in five major benefit areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Respiratory</li> <li>✓ Medical surgical supplies</li> <li>✓ Mobility, bathing, toileting, large equipment</li> <li>✓ Prosthetics and orthotics</li> <li>✓ Hearing and communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Medical equipment and supplies (e.g., wheelchair, hearing aid) for use in the home and community</li> </ul> <p>Regional Health Authorities do assessment and authorization for some benefits provided through AADL</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Medical equipment and supplies (e.g., patient lifter, bathing aids) to support child's independence in the home</li> </ul>
Children's Services	<p>Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Assistance with some of the exceptional costs associated with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• medical appointments (e.g., mileage, parking)</li> <li>• some prescribed medications and medical supplies</li> <li>• prescribed special diets</li> <li>• prescribed formula</li> <li>• disability-related dental/orthodontic needs</li> <li>• disability-related clothing needs</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Aides to help child with personal care needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Aides to help parents help child reach developmental goals</li> <li>✓ Specialized supports for children with severe disabilities in selected areas based on individual need</li> <li>✓ Aide in child care facility to support the development of a child diagnosed with a severe disability prior to the provision of educational supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Aides to help parents manage their child's behavioural needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A range of respite services (a temporary break from parenting responsibilities related to the care and supervision of children with severe disabilities) and supports</li> <li>✓ Help with extraordinary care costs associated with a disability</li> <li>✓ Individual and family counselling</li> <li>✓ Information and referrals</li> <li>✓ Help with the coordination of supports and services</li> </ul>
Children's Services	<p>Inclusive Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Referral to such specialists as occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists for children in licensed and approved child care programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Developmental and socialization experiences through quality inclusive child care (i.e., licensed day care, approved family day home, or licensed nursery school) for children with special needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Referral of children to appropriately qualified professionals (e.g., counsellors, psychologists, social workers)</li> <li>✓ Consultation support to child care staff so that children with emotional and behavioural needs can be included in a child care program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Inclusive child care to provide positive, developmentally appropriate social experiences in a child care setting</li> <li>✓ Strategies and skills to help parents manage their children's behaviour</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In-school support (e.g., distribution of medication, adherence to feeding schedules) for medical plans established by health professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Teacher-directed individualized program plan (IPP)</li> <li>✓ Learning team, which may include specialists in areas such as speech-language, fine and gross motor skills, vision, hearing, cognition and behaviour</li> <li>✓ Small group or one-on-one instruction</li> <li>✓ Access to assistive devices and specialized equipment to support educational programming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Behaviour management strategies as part of educational programming</li> <li>✓ Behavioural and emotional supports (e.g., behaviour consultants)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Online resources at <a href="http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/specialneeds">www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/specialneeds</a></li> <li>✓ Parent workshops on topics related to child development (e.g., behaviour management, speech and language)</li> <li>✓ Individually planned family-oriented programming sessions for children with severe disabilities/delays, which provide parents with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coaching</li> <li>• information and resources</li> <li>• strategies and skills</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Family/school liaison staff</li> </ul>