



Government has developed several programs, typically called ‘foundational programs,’ that are free and available to support children and youth with special needs. These programs are delivered by a local community based non-profit agency, often referred to as a Child Development Centre. For more details regarding the foundational programs visit the link at the **‘Get the help you need’** block.

In addition to the foundational programs, Government also provides funding directly to families through their Autism Funding Unit for children and youth with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. For more information on how services are funded for children and youth with Autism, visit Autism Information Services BC:

<http://autisminfo.gov.bc.ca/autism-funding-program/>

Additional support for parents of school aged children with a severe disability or complex health care needs can be accessed via the [Provincial At-Home program](#).

Many Provincial Specialized Services are available for children and youth with special needs via [Sunny Hill Health Centre](#) and [BC Children’s Hospital](#). These include services such as a seating clinic, feeding and swallowing, gait lab, tone management and much more. Follow the links for more information.

The private sector in BC is also an option for families seeking rehabilitation services for their child. There are many Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, and Speech-Language Pathologists in the private sector with expertise working with children and youth. For more information:

Canadian Association of OT – BC Division: <https://caot.ca/site/rc/forbcots?nav=sidebar>

Physiotherapy Association of BC:

<https://bcphysio.org/>

Speech and Hearing BC:

<http://speechandhearingbc.ca/>

BCACDI is a provincial non-profit organization, founded in 1996, which provides advocacy and opportunities for collaboration to member agencies throughout British Columbia. Member agencies are non-profit, accredited, and provide diagnostic, developmental, intervention and support services for children and youth with special needs and their families.

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