



More information about BC's foundational programs for children and youth:

1. Infant Development Program

The Infant Development Program (IDP) supports families with children from birth to three years of age who are at risk for, or who have, developmental delays. The program brings families and professionals together to support infants and toddlers through early developmental stages. It's an opportunity for parents to:

- Learn ways to encourage your child's development
- Discuss parenting and child development
- Access other community resources and activities

For your child to:

- Become more independent
- Discover abilities
- Learn new skills

Families play a vital role in every child's development. From birth to three years, a child develops at a rapid pace. Together we plan play activities that best meet the child's and family's needs. Infant Development Consultants are trained professionals and have skills and knowledge in child development and will assist you in enhancing your child's development in these important years. Our program is family-centred. Families identify the goals for their children and level of support they need. There is no cost to this service and participation is by choice.

* source – Comox valley cdc website

For information regarding the Indigenous stream of the Infant Development Program please visit: <https://aidp.bc.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.

Office of the Provincial Advocate
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2. Supported Child Development

The Supported Child Development (SCD) program works with families and community care providers to ensure the exceptional needs of all children can be met in their neighbourhood child care settings. SCD is based on the belief that all children have the right to be actively included in the community. The SCD consultant strives to enhance and support inclusive, quality child care by working in consultation with families and community agencies.

The Program:

- Is available to all families with a child requiring extra support
- Facilitates parent/professional collaboration at all levels of service
- Assists families to find and include their child in the early childhood setting of their choice
- Coordinates and consults with the whole team of people working with a child and family
- Works with families, care providers and team members to complete Individual Family Service Plans
- Provides consultation and evaluation of program planning
- Provides ongoing training and support to care providers
- Supports transitions from early childhood programs into schools or other community programs

Families are required to pay the child care fees. If you cannot afford the fees; you are encouraged to apply for Day Care Subsidy. If your child requires extra support to be successful in the program you have chosen, this service will be provided at no cost to you (based on availability).

* Source – Kamloops Children’s Therapy and Family Resource Centre

For information regarding the Indigenous stream of the Supported Child Development Program please visit: <http://ascdp.bc.ca/>

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3. Early Intervention Therapies

(Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech-language Pathology)

Speech-Language Therapists (SLP) or Speech Therapists help children develop communication skills. An SLP focuses on a child's understanding of language, spoken language, speech skills, eating skills (chewing, sucking, swallowing), hearing, gestures and body language. SLPs explore strategies to help children communicate more effectively and to develop the best language learning environment. If a child is slow to talk, for example, the SLP may explore other ways for a child to communicate, such as gestures/signs, pictures or voice communication aids.

Occupational Therapists (OT) help children develop skills in self-care activities, in play and in learning activities – so in developing skills for life. An OT focuses on how children manage with dressing, toileting, eating and personal hygiene as well as how children co-ordinate their eyes with their hands, how they process information through their senses, how they pay attention, how they socialize with others, and how they best learn and organize activities. The OT builds on a child's strengths and interests using play-based activities and/or adapted equipment.

Physical Therapists (PT) help children develop mobility (crawling, walking, getting around) independence and physical fitness. A Physical therapist focuses on the strength and control of a child's muscles, the movement of their joints, and the development of balance, and coordination. They use the information from focusing on the child in this way, to develop activities that will encourage new motor skills. Team PT's will help families to access community recreation programs such as swimming, horseback riding, and playground activities for their child. PT's may also recommend specialized equipment such as: walkers, wheelchairs, standers and seating systems.

* Source – Share Family and Community Services

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4. School Aged Therapy

This program provides occupational therapy and physiotherapy services to school-aged children and youth with special needs to assist them in meeting their educational goals and to help them achieve their highest level of independent functioning within their home, school and community settings.

The SAT Program is jointly funded and administered by the Ministries of Education and MCFD, in partnership with boards of education, independent school authorities and MCFD's Service Delivery Areas (SDAs). Speech Language Pathology services are provided to school aged children through the Ministry of Education. Please contact your local school board for more details.

School Age Therapy fact sheet:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/children-teens-with-special-needs/sat_and_saet_info_sheet.pdf

5. Autism Specific Programming

Many BCACDI member agencies have programs specific for children and youth with Autism that families can access utilizing their Autism Funding (for more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/healthy-women-children/child-behaviour-development/special-needs/autism-spectrum-disorder/autism-funding>

Contact your local child development centre to see if they offer such programs.

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