

FSL FAQs

POPARD Family - School Liaison Newsletter



FAQ: HOW DO I FIND PROFESSIONALS/ PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?

In a previous blog post, we discussed the professional supports that may be accessed in public and independent school systems in British Columbia for students with special needs. In addition to these services, families may choose to work with service care providers in their home or community setting. Community service providers work collaboratively with families to develop goals that are related to a child's skill-development in a number of areas relevant to home, school, and/or community. In some areas of the province, in-person services may be difficult to find,

but more and more service providers are providing at least some services virtually.

Autism funding is available for children up to age 18 to help families pay for services that promote skill development in areas of communication, social-emotional, academic, and life skills. A list of eligible service providers for Autism Funding for "Children Under Age 6" and "Children Aged 6 to 18" can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/child-behaviour-development/support-needs/autism-spectrum-disorder/autism-funding/funding-amount>

Regulated Care Providers

As you search for a service provider, you may wish to consider whether they are regulated or not. Regulated professionals are bound to adhere to standards mandated by their College to which they belong. Colleges are provided with authority under the BC Health Act to protect the public. They have authority to prevent use of title, and, in some instances, prevent an individual who is not regulated by them from performing particular services.

Regulated private care professionals include physicians, psychologists, speech-language pathologists, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists. A list of regulated professions is available at:

[Regulated Health Professionals - BCHR - BC Health Regulators](#)

Unregulated care providers may provide helpful service as well, but you should be aware that they do not belong to organizations that have a legal duty to protect the public.

Autism Information Services BC (AIS-BC) is an organization that provides "Autism Support Specialists" to discuss needs and provide guidance at any stage of autism diagnosis. AIS BC can help you build a support team of professionals or programs for your child. Assistance is available in English, Chinese, Punjabi, and Tagalog; and staff have access to interpreters to support you in over 50 languages.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/managing-your-health/autism/autism_brochure_english.pdf

The Registry of Autism Service Providers (RASP)

is a list of professionals who have experience and education to offer programs for children with autism. If your child is under six and you want to use autism funding to pay for services, you will need to choose service providers from the RASP. If your child is six and over, you do not need to choose an individual service provider from the RASP list, however, you must choose a service provider from an eligible profession, as indicated above. You can find descriptions of professional services and therapy approaches here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/child-behaviour-development/support-needs/autism-spectrum-disorder/build-your-support-team/choose-the-right-service-providers>

Pacific Autism Family Network Regional Managers often have a wealth of information about services and programs in their community.

Contact Information:

- Okanagan (Kelowna)
Carman Hamilton

carmen@pacificautismfamily.com

- North (Prince George)
Ash Moberg
aisling@pacificautismfamily.com
- Fraser Valley (Chilliwack)
Stephanie Betsch
stephanie@pacificautismfamily.com

Autism Community Training - BC

(ACT-BC) provides a website through which providers advertise services (assessment, intervention, care) intended for individuals with ASD:

<https://www.actcommunity.ca/bcresources>

Your family physician might also be of help in finding a private or public service provider, however, most service providers do not require a referral from a doctor. In the current funding system, you can simply search professional databases and reach out directly to a service provider that is the right fit for your child and family. As announced in October 2021, the provincial funding system will be changing over the next few years so it is recommended that families look for upcoming updates.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
OR WOULD LIKE FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
POPARD'S
FAMILY-SCHOOL LIAISON

EMAIL:
FSL@AUTISMOUTREACH.CA

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604-952-4994

PROFESSIONAL DATABASES IN BC

SERVICE PROVIDER: SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

Registered Autism Service Provider List (Required for under 6):

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/search?id=D9E8F17BE27040D28C185FE4E57FA421&sourceId=666C07A0AC6A4456B237268D60F370BF&q=speech+language+pathologist>

Provincial Databases:

<https://speechandhearingbc.ca/#professional-map>

SERVICE PROVIDER: BEHAVIOUR CONSULTANTS

Registered Autism Service Provider List (Required for under 6):

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/search?id=D9E8F17BE27040D28C185FE4E57FA421&sourceId=666C07A0AC6A4456B237268D60F370BF&q=behaviour+consultant>

Provincial Databases:

<https://www.bacb.com/bcba/>

SERVICE PROVIDER: OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Registered Autism Service Provider List (Required for under 6):

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/search?id=D9E8F17BE27040D28C185FE4E57FA421&sourceId=666C07A0AC6A4456B237268D60F370BF&q=occupational+therapist>

Provincial Databases:

<https://www.caot.ca/site/findot>

SERVICE PROVIDER: PSYCHOLOGISTS

Provincial Databases:

https://www.psychologists.bc.ca/find_psychologist

SERVICE PROVIDER: PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Registered Autism Service Provider List (Required for under 6):

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/search?id=D9E8F17BE27040D28C185FE4E57FA421&sourceId=666C07A0AC6A4456B237268D60F370BF&q=physical+therapist>

Provincial Databases:

<https://bcphysio.org/find-a-physio>