

Childhood is a journey, not a race.

CHILDHOOD IS ABOUT GROWING, LEARNING, DEVELOPING AND BECOMING THE PERSON WE ARE EACH DESTINED TO BE – A TALL ORDER FOR A CHILD AND HIS OR HER PARENTS. FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES, THE CHALLENGES CAN BE MORE PROFOUND, YET SO ARE THE MOMENTS OF SUCCESS.

physical health

recreation & leisure

emotional wellbeing

relationships

financial security

For 2015-2016, OACRS recommends an investment of \$3M

in the core rehabilitation services of social work, therapeutic recreation and psychology services for **children and youth with special needs**.

Investments in these core services contribute to the overall health, development, learning, quality of life, participation and community inclusion of **children and youth with special needs** and their families. This investment would increase access to services that build family capacity, strengthen family function and prevent family breakdown.

Families will have many different priorities as their child's needs change over time. For parents of **very young children**, it is often information about their condition and/or diagnosis, and their child's physical development and learning that is important. For **older children** and their parents, priorities might be school, relationships with friends and participating in activities. For **youth** and their parents, priorities may include preparing to leave school, work opportunities, post-secondary education and moving out of the home.

Ontario families **need a full spectrum of services that can support this complex journey** at any point along the way. The 2013 investment in occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy resulted in approximately 3,000 more services for children. This success must be accompanied by access to other core services that facilitate community participation and link families to a broad range of community services and supports. This full spectrum of services provides a strong foundation for young people to become active and productive members of their communities.

Evidence is mounting that with adequate resources and supports, children and youth with disabilities can thrive in school, work and life.

We are committed to working with the government of Ontario to ensure that children and youth with special needs and their families are well supported in their journey to face the transition to adulthood with confidence.



Ontario
Association of
Children's
Rehabilitation
Services

Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation Services

For more than 40 years, the Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation Services (OACRS) has represented the interests of children's rehabilitation centres in Ontario. Through our services as a membership organization, we provide a powerful united voice for children and youth with physical, communication or developmental challenges. Through our leadership, and in partnership with the Children's Treatment Centres (CTCs), the Ontario government, families and other stakeholders, the association is influencing policy direction, program funding and access to services for children and youth with special needs.

OACRS is committed to a service delivery system that is integrated, inclusive and family-centred. Our members provide innovative therapies and extensive treatment options to children in cities, towns and rural areas across the province.

Who are the Children's Treatment Centres?

Ontario Children's Treatment Centres have been building brighter futures for children and strengthening families for more than half a century. Using a family-centred approach, they provide holistic care and service planning where service delivery is focused on the "whole child." The centres have long-term and close relationships with the children and youth they serve, as well as with their families, and have a clear understanding of the challenges families face and the supports that they need.

What services do we provide?

Children and youth with disabilities and their families need a wide range of services to help them reach their full potential. Experienced and dedicated professional staff at member centres offer a broad range of assessment, diagnosis, treatment and community programs.

Children's Treatment Centres provide one-stop access to services such as:

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Social Work
- Augmentative Communication
- Psychology & Psychometry
- Recreation Therapy
- Seating
- Orthotics/Prosthetics
- Medical Services
- Technical Services
- Cleft Lip/Palate
- Dental Treatment Services

Who we serve?

There are currently almost 70,000 children and youth with disabilities and their families who are served by the 20 Children's Treatment Centres. These children and youth have a variety of developmental, physical and communication challenges such as autism spectrum disorder, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy and developmental delay.

*We are working to ensure that **all** children and youth in Ontario have the best opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential.*



Ontario Association of
Children's Rehabilitation Services

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