



AUTISM PROGRAM  
PROGRAMME D'AUTISME



## **NEW ABA SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD) EASTERN REGION COMMUNICATION**

The Autism program at CHEO, in partnership with the Ottawa Children's Treatment Center (OCTC) is happy to announce that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services has funded new services which build on improving the continuum of care for children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in Eastern Ontario, and their families by implementing Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)-based services and supports.

Using an ABA approach, services and supports will focus on addressing the needs that children and youth with ASD have in four key developmental areas:

1. communication,
2. social/interpersonal,
3. daily living and
4. behaviour management/emotional regulation.

### **Eligibility and intake process**

The target population for these services is children and youth who have a diagnosis of ASD and who require assistance to develop their skills in one or more areas to improve their quality of life.

Children and youth of age 0-17 (up to 18<sup>th</sup> birthday) are eligible for services if they have confirmation of an ASD diagnosis from a professional who is qualified to make a diagnosis of Autism/Autistic Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), or Asperger's Disorder.

Eligible children and youth may be receiving other ASD-specific or general services and supports funded by MCYS or other ministries. Other services and supports that children are receiving will be considered in the development of the ABA-based service plan.

A referral for service must be accompanied by assessment and other information pertaining to the child or youth and their family that will assist in the identification of service needs. Where a diagnosis of an ASD has also been made by the referring professional, all required assessment information and documentation pertaining to that diagnosis will be provided to the CHEO Autism Intake Worker accepting the referral.

Where ABA-based services and supports are determined not to be appropriate for children and youth with ASD referred to an ABA-based service provider, referrals will be

made to other available services to address the needs of children and youth and their families

In order to access services, a referral can be made by a parent/caregiver and/or a professional such as:

- Family physician
- Psychiatrist
- Developmental paediatrician
- Psychologist
- Psychological Associate
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Social Worker
- Nurse (includes Registered Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners).

### **Services and supports to be provided**

Services are designed to target the child's or youth's highest priority skill development area(s). Services will be provided for approximately two to six months depending on the child's or youth's identified needs and the type of service being delivered. Services will typically be delivered in group format and provided for between two and four hours per week with flexibility to provide services more or less frequently as appropriate.

### **Parent/caregiver engagement in service delivery**

The ability of this initiative to lead to positive outcomes for children and youth with ASD is dependent to a significant degree on the involvement of parents/caregivers in learning the strategies being taught to their children and incorporating these techniques into daily activities. For this reason, the involvement of parents/caregivers is a core component of this initiative.

We anticipate that services will begin in the late fall 2011

We will be working closely with our community partners to further enhance these new services (more information will be provided in the months ahead).

### **To make a referral for ABA Services and Supports:**

**Tel:** (613) 745-2366  
**Toll free** 1-866- 484-3223

**Address:** CHEO AUTISM PROGRAM  
ABA Supports and Services  
1661 Montreal Road  
Ottawa K1J 9B7

**We will be happy to take your calls between 8 am and 4 pm.**