

Community Resources for Families of Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)



1. Autism Ontario, Sarnia, Ontario

- Contact: Cheryl Dart, Chapter Director, 519-332-0333
- Website: www.sarniaautism.com
- Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Members are connected through a volunteer network of Chapters throughout the Province of Ontario. The 6 key areas of focus are 1) advocacy and support 2) research 3) best practices 4) government relations 5) public awareness 6) governance.
- Provides a monthly Parent Support Group
- Individualized summer program which focuses on educational, life and social skills. Specialists and ABA therapists work within this program.
- Essential Autism Educational Services Inc.: Dwayne Wessel, provides consultation opportunities to develop educational strategies, positive behaviour support planning, socialization strategies and communication support. Fee for service can be subsidized for members of Autism Ontario.

2. Pathways Health Centre for Children, Sarnia, Ontario

- Contact: Intake 519-542-3471 ext.252
- Website: www.pathwayscentre.org
- A children's treatment centre serving Lambton County's children and youth with physical, developmental and communication needs and their families, as well as adults for some specialized services. Specific to children and youth with ASD and PDD, Pathways provides Occupational Therapy assessments and treatment as well as recommendations for sensory issues, as appropriate.

3. St. Clair Child and Youth Services, Sarnia, Ontario

- Contact: Intake 519-337-3701
- Website: www.stclair.ca
- A children's mental health centre that serves the needs of children with autism (ages 6 to 18) and their families through their Dual Diagnosis Program. The Program offers a range of services that include individual and family interventions, behavioural supports, advocacy, resource counseling, and a Peer Mediated Support Network Program through the schools. Service can be provided in the home, school or community.

4. Autism Intervention Program South West Region, Thames Valley Children's Centre, London, Ontario

- Contact: Theresa Verspagen, Service Co-ordinator, Thames Valley Children's Centre: 1-519-685-8708
- Website: www.tvcc.on.ca
- Provide Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) for children diagnosed toward the severe end of the Autism Spectrum Disorder. Anyone can refer but will need confirmation of diagnosis. Begins with eligibility assessment. Services are usually offered in the child's home on a 1 to 1 basis and range from 20 to 35 hours per week. Reviewed and evaluated as the child progresses. Have information sessions for parents.
- If a family chooses to access and engage an IBI therapist privately, the program may be able to provide a list of community based therapists who are available to families to work with the children individually.

5. School Support Program, Thames Valley Children's Centre, London, Ontario

- Contact: Jennifer Britton, Administrative Service Leader, 1-519-685-8680 ext. 53732
- Website: www.tvcc.on.ca
- Provides supports for educators to meet the needs of children and youth with ASD in both elementary and secondary school. The program does not provide direct service to the children and youth but rather provide planning, training, consultation and resource development with school board staff.

6. Child and Parent Research Institute (CPRI), Pervasive Developmental Disorders Program, London, Ontario

- Contact: Intake 1-519-858-2774 ext.2024
- Website: www.cpri.ca
- A community and centre based program providing assessment, treatment, consultation and support to children up to the age of 18 with a diagnosis of PDD, their families and the community. Begins with participation in a PDD Screening Clinic.

7. Community Living Sarnia Lambton Respite

- Contact: Carrie Mulvey, 519-332-0560
- Website: www.communityliving.org
- Provides respite services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. These services can be accessed in a communal residential setting or in the individual's home with the provision of a 1 to 1 worker.

8. Children's Autism Spectrum Disorder Respite, Sarnia, Ontario

- Contact: Family Counselling Centre, Scott Burns, 519-336-0917
- Currently still being developed; specific criteria not yet determined
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services will be providing additional respite supports for children under the age of eighteen. It can be used by the families to access residential respite or to hire a 1 to 1 worker for their child

9. Geneva Centre for Autism, Toronto, Ontario

- Contact: 416-322-7877
- Website: www.autism.net
- International leader in the development and delivery of training, support and clinical intervention services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, their families and professionals

10. Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)

- Contact: Call for an application form from the Ministry of Child and Youth Services Intake Worker 1-800-419-4919 ext. 2298. You can contact a Pathways Health Centre for Children Social Worker 519-542-3471 to assist with the application process. When you return the application, the Special Agreements Officer (SAO) will set an appointment with you.
- Website: www.children.gov.on.ca
- Provides a monthly financial benefit to the families of children with disabilities to help meet the ongoing extra cost arising from the disability. ACSD can also provide a drug card, dental card, eyeglasses and/or hearing aids (up to \$410.00 per month). This funding can also be used for the cost of an in-home support worker. The funding amount depends on your income (means tested).

11. Special Services at Home (SSAH)

- Contact: Family Counselling Centre 519-336-0120 (Jane Racher ext. 262) or Pathways Health Centre for Children 519-542-3471 (Penny Gordon ext. 255)
- Website: www.familycounsellingctr.com
- SSAH is a Ministry of Children and Youth Services program that provides funding for in-home support that is not otherwise available in the community. Eligibility: children who have a developmental and/or physical disability and adults who have a developmental disability. Families can use the funding a) to hire a 1 to 1 support worker to work on specific therapeutic goals with their child b) to provide respite for the family c) to pay for services which will allow the parent more time with their child i.e. housekeeping, out of home respite programs d) to provide a support worker for the child to attend summer programs. The funding can be administered by a local agency, such as Pathways, or the parent can administer it directly.

12. Easter Seals Incontinence Supplies Grant Program

- Contact: Application forms can be obtained from the Incontinence Program of the Easter Seal Society, London: 1800-668-6252 ext. 314
- Website: www.easterseals.org
- This program provides \$400.00/yr. for children 3-5 yrs who needs diapers or \$900.00/yr. for children 6-18 who need diapers. \$200.00 is available for some enema supplies.