

Autism Information Services British Columbia (AIS BC)

We're Here To Help

For more information about autism, connect with us: 8:30am–4:30pm (Monday-Friday)

No appointment necessary

Call Toll-free: **1 844 878-4700**

In person: **3688 Cessna Drive
Richmond, B.C. V7B 1C7**

We are located on the first floor of the GoodLife Fitness Family Autism Hub at the Pacific Autism Family Network (PAFN).

Website: autisminfo.gov.bc.ca

Email: AutismInformation@gov.bc.ca



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Autism Information Services BC provides:

Supports to Families

AIS BC staff assist the growing number of B.C. families affected by autism who need support in making informed decisions about treatment options for their children. We assist families by providing information, resources and training opportunities on:

- Assessment and diagnosis
- Best practice treatment options
- Effectively using Autism Funding
- Finding and hiring professionals
- Identifying and accessing provincial and local-level community supports and services
- Managing transitions across infancy, preschool, school-age and emerging adulthood

Supports for Service Providers

As a central resource for service providers to support the families they serve, we promote collaboration and coordination between autism-related service organizations and community support providers across B.C.

Management of the Registry of Autism Service Providers (RASP)

We manage and administer the Registry of Autism Service Providers (RASP) with continued support from an expert advisory panel. The RASP can be found on our website so that families have continued access to a list of qualified professionals including:

- Behaviour Analysts/Consultants
- Speech-Language Pathologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists

The RASP ensures that parents of children with ASD have access to professionals whose education, training and experience qualifies them to design, supervise and implement effective autism treatment programs.

Visit our website to find a RASP service provider: autisminfo.gov.bc.ca

Visit the 'apply to be on the RASP' section of the AIS BC website if you are a service provider wanting to register.

For more information contact:

RASP@gov.bc.ca

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex condition that impacts brain development and affects a person's social relationships, communication, interests and behaviour.

ASD presents itself in a wide variety of combinations, and individuals can exhibit many different combinations of the behaviours in any degree of severity. There is no standard type or typical person with ASD and the needs, skills and abilities of each person are affected differently.

In general, a person with autism typically has difficulty with communication and social interactions. Other behaviours can include being overly dependent on routines, highly sensitive to changes in environment, or attachments to objects.



Early Indicators of Autism Spectrum Disorders

Your child does not need to demonstrate all of the indicated behaviours to be referred for an assessment. These characteristics may also indicate other conditions. A parent's concerns about their child's development should always be taken seriously. Some possible signs of ASD include:

- Impaired social interaction
- Lack of eye contact
- No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by six months or later
- Lack of response to name
- Impaired communication
- No sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions by nine months
- Lack of gestures such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving by 12 months
- Lack of coordination of non-verbal communication
- No babbling by 12 months
- Unusual voice (little variation in pitch, odd intonation, irregular rhythm)
- Repetitive behaviours & restricted interests
- Repetitive movements with objects

We take pride in helping children and their families

As a provincial information centre for autism and related disorders, we provide best practice information, support and training to families, service providers, and community professionals across B.C.

Our experienced staff are available by phone, in person, or by email to explain the range of best practice treatment options for autism spectrum disorder to help you navigate the B.C. service system.

