

Preschool Autism Program

Supporting, preparing, and guiding preschool-aged autistic children and their families

The **Preschool Autism Program** provides high-quality, evidence-based services to preschool-aged children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as to their families. The goal is to increase the child's independence, support their overall development, and promote success in their everyday environments.



What You Need to Know

Service delivery by VIVA Therapeutic Services (VIVA)

VIVA is responsible for delivering services under the Preschool Autism Program through a contract with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD). Services are offered across all seven school districts in the province (three Francophone and four Anglophone).

Collaboration with families

VIVA works closely with families to develop a personalized service plan that meets the specific needs of the child and their environment.

Services based on applied behaviour analysis (ABA)

Services are grounded in ABA, a well established, evidence based approach shown to support significant progress for autistic children and their families. These teaching strategies help develop a wide range of skills, including:

- Communication
- Social interactions
- Play
- Independence and self care
- School readiness

Voluntary participation

The Preschool Autism Program is voluntary. Families who choose to participate will collaborate with VIVA to develop a service agreement tailored to their needs and the needs of their child. Families are expected to follow the agreement to support progress toward the goals established together.

Steps to Access Services

1. The parent or caregiver sends the consent forms to EECD at: autism.autisme@gnb.ca.
2. EECD forwards the forms to VIVA within 2 to 3 business days.
3. VIVA contacts the family within 10 business days to explain next steps, required documents, and available training sessions.
4. The intake process typically begins within 4 months of this first contact.
5. Intervention services begin at the end of the intake process, which lasts approximately 3 months.

Intake Process

The intake process involves assessing the strengths and needs of the child and their family. The VIVA clinical team:

- explains available services and answers the family's questions;
- conducts an assessment of the child's strengths and needs (interviews, observations, assessment tools);
- builds a trusting relationship with the child and family;
- develops a Personalized Learning Plan - Preschool (PLP).

Service Models

Services are offered through two models, depending on the needs of the child and their family.

Direct Services

This model consists of a minimum of four hours of services per week and includes:

- supervision by a clinical team (including a clinical supervisor);
- Services delivered by a behaviour assistant (BA);
- individualized goals for the child and parents/caregivers;
- clinical support and coaching for parents/caregivers and the early learning and childcare centre, as needed.

Direct services may be provided in the child's home, in an early learning and childcare centre, or at a VIVA facility (when available).

Consultative Services

Consultative services are less intensive and focus on one or two specific goals. They are delivered by a clinical supervisor or behaviour consultant and may take place in the child's home, in an early learning and childcare centre, or online.



Your Voice Matters

EECD sends an annual survey to parents and caregivers to evaluate service quality and satisfaction. Your feedback is important and helps us improve the support provided to your family and to families across the province. We encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the survey and share your feedback.

Recommended Resources

[New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development](#)

[Preschool Autism Program](#)

[Autism Resource Hub](#)

[Autism Learning Partnership](#)

[Services thérapeutiques VIVA Therapeutic Services](#)

[Association for Science in Autism Treatment](#)



Contact Us

Telephone (toll free): 1 844 377 3819

Fax: 506 462 2104

Email: autism.autisme@gnb.ca

