

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.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, a child must:

- be a resident of New Brunswick;
- have received an autism diagnosis from a licensed health professional authorized to provide this diagnosis;
- be five years of age or younger and not yet in school.

How to Register a Child

Step 1: The child must obtain an autism diagnosis from an authorized health professional (e.g., psychologist or pediatrician).

Step 2: The diagnosing health professional sends confirmation of the diagnosis to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD).

Step 3: EECD contacts the parents/caregivers to explain the available services and have them sign consent forms allowing information to be shared with the program service provider (VIVA).

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.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. My child has just received an autism diagnosis. Should I call VIVA, or do I wait for someone to contact me?

A. The health professional who diagnosed your child will send the confirmation of diagnosis form to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD). EECD will then contact you to gather the necessary information and forms to register your child for the program. Once you have provided all required registration information, VIVA will contact your family and begin the intake process. You can contact EECD staff at any time at 1 844 377 3819 (toll free) or email autism.autisme@gnb.ca.

Q. How many hours of services will my child receive?

A. The service hours and the service model are based on the needs of the child and their family, as described in the child's service plan. You may work with the team to establish a schedule that includes a number of service hours suitable for your family.

Q. Is my child too young?

A. No. The Program is designed for preschool aged children and includes play based learning. Service hours can be adjusted up or down depending on the needs of the child and their family.

Q. Can I choose the language of service?

A. Services are available in English and French throughout the province. Each family is invited to choose a language of service when registering for the program.

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

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