



IWK Health

Pediatric Rehabilitation  
Services

# The Village News



## January's Special Dates

1 – New Years Day

6 – Epiphany

7 – Orthodox Christmas Day

14 – Orthodox New Year

25 – Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day)

January 2024

- Parents of Complex Children Support Group
- Autism Education Series
- Recruitment Flyer--Transition Framework Co-Design
- Manual Wheelchair Study
- Transition Tips
- Interplay Research Study
- Parasport
- McMaster University Research Study
- Parent Well Being Study
- Rehab Kids Patient Recruitment Study
- Cerebral Palsy (CPPain) Survey
- Recruiting Caregivers of IWK Rehab patients
- Patients with Complex care research

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# Support Group for Parents of Children with Complex Care Needs

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**Next Virtual Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**7:00-8:30pm**

**This is a journey that does not have to be taken alone.  
We can do this together!**

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If you are interested in attending, please contact Jackie Pidduck  
[jacklynn.pidduck@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:jacklynn.pidduck@iwk.nshealth.ca)



# Autism Education Series

Explore resources to support your family in learning more about autism.



Scan here with your smartphone camera to learn more and access the Autism Education Series:



[Visit the IWK Health Website](#)



# Autism Education Series:

The resources below have been created to support families with preschool-age children to learn more about autism.

## Understanding Autism / Comprendre l'autisme

*EN: Learn about the features of autism, support services, and autism acceptance.*

*FR: Découvrez les caractéristiques de l'autisme, les services de soutien, et l'acceptation de l'autisme.*

## Making Sense of Behaviour

*Understand the meaning of behaviour and strategies to teach skills.*

## Parent Perspectives

*A Parent and Family Advisor shares their family's autism journey.*

## Exploring Play

*Explore ideas for playing together with your child.*

## Engagement

*Set up the stage for your child's communication.*

## Social Communication

*Build your child's social communication skills.*

## Positive Behaviour Support

*Respond to behaviours of concern and teach your child new skills in daily routines.*

## Toileting

*Prepare to teach toileting, practice the skills, and show your child that they are successful.*

## Self-Care for Parents and Caregivers

*Reminders about how important it is to ask for help and to take care of yourself.*

# PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS INVITED TO DESIGN A TRANSITION STRATEGY FOR THE IWK AND NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH

The transition from **pediatric to adult care** is an important time for youth and their parents and/or caregivers.

To **improve health outcomes** along this transition, a project is underway to create **an implementation strategy** that will help the IWK and Nova Scotia Health to improve the transition to adult care.

## Co-design sessions start this November!

Participants will join a **2-hour virtual session** to create practical strategies for the IWK and NSH to use based on their own experiences with the transition process.



**Who can join?** Patients (14-24 years old) and caregivers of a patient with **one of these health conditions:**

- Sickle Cell Anemia
- Thalassemia
- Complex Care
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Complex Ear Disease
- Tracheostomy



*scan to register*



To register for a co-design session, please scan the QR code or contact Megan Churchill: [Megan.Churchill@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:Megan.Churchill@iwk.nshealth.ca)

# PEDIATRIC MANUAL WHEELCHAIR USERS NEEDED

## Wheelchair Skills Training Program

Partake in a study evaluate the effectiveness of a program to teach children how to safely and efficiently perform 32 manual wheelchair skills that are essential for everyday activities

### Target population


Children who use a manual wheelchair for their everyday mobility




### Eligibility criteria

- ✓ Be between the ages of 3 – 21 years old
- ✓ Use a manual wheelchair regularly and be able to self-propel for 10 meters
- ✓ Have your own manual wheelchair
- ✓ Understand 2-step instructions in English
- ✓ Live in (or willing to travel to) the area of Halifax
- ✗ Children using a double hand-rim (one-sided propulsion) for maneuvering their manual wheelchair are not eligible

### Description of the study

 12 manual wheelchair skills training sessions held weekly with a trained occupational therapist or research assistant at/near the IWK Health Centre

 3 evaluation sessions each spaced 3 months apart to assess wheelchair mobility

 You will receive a stipend of \$50 after each of the 3 evaluation sessions

Email [Pediatric-WSTP@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:Pediatric-WSTP@iwk.nshealth.ca) for any questions or to partake!

Primary Supervisors: Krista Best, PhD and Jordan Sheriko, MD  
(Jordan.Sheriko@iwk.nshealth.ca)



# Getting Ready for Adult Care?

Check out our  
transition tips!



# TALK ABOUT IT

Talking about the transition to adult health care will not likely make it happen any faster, but it may help you to feel more confident and prepared when you do make the move



IWK Health

IWK HEALTH TRANSITION TIPS





# START EARLY, REPEAT OFTEN

Start thinking about the skills you need early. There are lots of skills to learn, like figuring out how to get medications, knowing your health history, and being an advocate for what helps you.



IWK Health

IWK HEALTH TRANSITION TIPS



# KNOW YOUR CHAMPIONS

Find people to help--at home, at school or from your health care team.

Look for people who can support you as you take on more responsibility for your health care.



IWK Health

IWK HEALTH TRANSITION TIPS



# ASK FOR HELP

As you take on more responsibility for your health, remember, it is ok to ask for help. Your health care team is here to support you.

If you are not sure, ask us!



IWK Health

IWK HEALTH TRANSITION TIPS



# TRY IT ON YOUR OWN

Try your new health care skills  
while you have a support  
system around you.  
It is ok to make mistakes,  
it is how we learn.



IWK Health

IWK HEALTH TRANSITION TIPS



# **You're in Charge** **is a great way to start** **the conversation**

Register now for our next  
online session starting  
this Fall





IMPLEMENTATION OF  
INTENSIVE THERAPY FOR  
EARLY REACH THROUGH PLAY

## Share your **experiences** with **HAND THERAPY**

Complete an online survey about things that may influence early intensive hand therapy for young children with cerebral palsy.

Across Canada, we'd like to hear from:

- **Caregivers** of a child with cerebral palsy under 6 years old.
- **Occupational Therapists** who provide therapy for children with cerebral palsy.
- **Leaders** who manage occupational therapy programs.



Take a picture to participate in the survey

Participants will receive \$25

Questions? Ask us at [interplay.study@ucalgary.ca](mailto:interplay.study@ucalgary.ca)

This study has been approved by the University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (REB22-1692)

# Parasport's in Nova Scotia

*Para or Adaptive sports are competitive and/or recreational sports that are accessible to everyone, and can be played by anyone whether living with or without a disability!*



**Did you know there are tons of Parasport opportunities available in communities all across Nova Scotia? Visit [parasportns.com](http://parasportns.com) to learn more about all the individual programs that are available across the province!**

## Examples of Parasport's Available Across Nova Scotia include;

- |  |                    |   |                              |
|--|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
|  | <b>Para Hockey</b> |  | <b>Wheelchair Curling</b>    |
|  | <b>Boccia</b>      |  | <b>Wheelchair Basketball</b> |
|  | <b>Para-Canoe</b>  |  | <b>Ski &amp; Snowboard</b>   |
|  | <b>Goalball</b>    |  | <b>Powerchair Soccer</b>     |

*Map of Programs in Nova Scotia*



# Parasport FAQ's

## Do you need to have a specific disability to participate in Parasport programs?

NO! Parasport's are designed to create a more inclusive and accessible sport environment. This means that at a recreational level they are open to participants of all abilities! Depending on your ability, certain sports may provide a better experience than others. You can check out each parasport offered in Nova Scotia at [www.parasportns.com](http://www.parasportns.com) to see which sport might be the best fit for you, or you can reach out to [parasport@sportnovascotia.ca](mailto:parasport@sportnovascotia.ca) if you need additional assistance or guidance!

*\* At competitive National levels and above all Parasport's have classification systems to group similar abilities together for competition*

## How do I register for a program?

Parasport programs are not provided directly by Sport Nova Scotia, but by a variety of different organizations across the province! Each organization has their own registration process, but a centralized list of programs, links to register, and contact info can be found at [www.parasportns.com](http://www.parasportns.com)! If you are having trouble finding the info for a specific sport or program, you can reach out to [parasport@sportnovascotia.ca](mailto:parasport@sportnovascotia.ca) to get started!

## What is the cost?

Cost varies program to program depending on the organization providing the program. Most parasport programs in Nova Scotia are low to no cost to register! If cost is a barrier, there are funding options such as KidSport available - <https://kidsportcanada.ca/nova-scotia/provincial-fund/>. There are also a number of municipalities across the province that offer subsidies for sport registration fees for youth.



## I don't know what sport would be a good fit for me/ my child?

You can check out each parasport offered in Nova Scotia at [www.parasportns.com](http://www.parasportns.com) to see which sport might be the best fit for you, or you can reach out to [parasport@sportnovascotia.ca](mailto:parasport@sportnovascotia.ca) if you need additional assistance or guidance!

## Is there a parasport program in my community?

There are parasport programs offered in communities all across Nova Scotia! You can find a map and list of available programs at [www.parasportns.com](http://www.parasportns.com)!

## Are there any options if there is no programs in my community?

Yes! Sport Nova Scotia offers the Parasport Program Loan which loans out the equipment, training and resources for a selection of parasports to eligible organizations to trial them in new communities! To find more info on this program visit <https://www.parasportns.com/parasport-program-loan/> or email [parasport@sportnovascotia.ca](mailto:parasport@sportnovascotia.ca)

## Do I need to have my own equipment?

It varies program by program depending on the organization providing the program, but for the vast majority of programs, NO! Most programs provide any specialized equipment such as sport chairs, specialized balls, etc as part of the program.







# Calling parents of children with disabilities across Canada for a research study



## MPOC 2.0: Field-testing the new MPOC

### WHAT IS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

- Researchers at McMaster University have developed a new questionnaire to measure parents' experiences with healthcare services for their children with disabilities. Now we would like to have parents test it out!

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Parents of a child/youth who has been receiving developmental, medical, or behavioural services for at least 6 months in the past 5 years.
- Parents who have not previously participated in another phase of the MPOC 2.0 study.

### WHAT WILL YOU BE ASKED TO DO?

- Complete a set of questions to tell us about your experiences with healthcare services.

Interested in participating?  
Want more information?

Contact us at  
[mpoc2@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mpoc2@mcmaster.ca)



This study has been reviewed by the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board under project #15702 Version #2 Jan 17 2023



## Weekly Health Letters for Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities

### *Facts about 90Second Wellbeing:*

- 2 short health letters weekly
- Actionable tips to improve wellbeing
- Evidence-based health information
- Free
- ✓ For all parents of children with developmental disabilities (regardless of age)
- ✓ Flexible time commitment
- ✓ Confidential
- ✓ Complete the study and obtain a \$25 gift card

To learn more about this study, visit:

[www.parentwellbeing.ca](http://www.parentwellbeing.ca)

Contact us at: [Parent.Wellbeing@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:Parent.Wellbeing@iwk.nshealth.ca)

Phone: 1-877-341-8309 [Ext 6]

# RECRUITING PATIENTS & FAMILIES IN IWK KIDS REHAB

Are you currently accessing care at the **IWK Kids Rehab Clinic**?

Would you like to **share feedback** about **your experience**?

We will ask you to complete a **1-1.5 hour interview** and you will be **compensated \$50** for your participation

Our research study is looking to interview patients and families about their experience with **goal setting**, the **intake interview**, and **overall functioning of the clinic**

**To participate in this study** you must be a patient or parent/guardian where...

- The patient has been **accessing care** at the Rehab Clinic for **at least the last 5 years**
- The patient **has not transitioned out of Rehab Clinic**
- The patient and/or parent is **comfortable having a conversation in English**

**If you are interested in participating, please contact:**

**Sarah Jennings**  
Lead Researcher  
[sarah.jennings@dal.ca](mailto:sarah.jennings@dal.ca)

**Dr. Jordan Sheriko**  
Supervising Investigator  
[jordan.sheriko@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:jordan.sheriko@iwk.nshealth.ca)

# SEEKING PEDIATRIC POWER WHEELCHAIR USERS FOR RESEARCH STUDY



**Do you have a child that is a current power wheelchair user? Or are you younger than 18 and a current power wheelchair user?**

Current pediatric power wheelchair users (aged 4-17) and their caregiver are invited to take part in a research study to help develop a **virtual reality game** for power wheelchair skills training

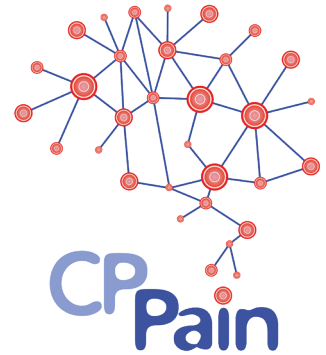
**Participants will each receive a \$25 gift card for their time**

**INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING OR HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Please contact the Research Coordinator, Sara, at  
[Sara.Drisdelle@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:Sara.Drisdelle@iwk.nshealth.ca)

This study has been reviewed and approved by the IWK  
Research Ethics Board (#1026934)





# Do you have a child (<18 years old) living with cerebral palsy? Or are you younger than 18 and living with cerebral palsy?



**Complete an online survey** to tell us about pain experiences in cerebral palsy and its impact (those with and without pain encouraged to participate!)

<https://tinyurl.com/CPAINsurvey>

**1 in 100 chance to win a \$150 prepaid VISA card**

For more information contact [cppain@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:cppain@iwk.nshealth.ca)

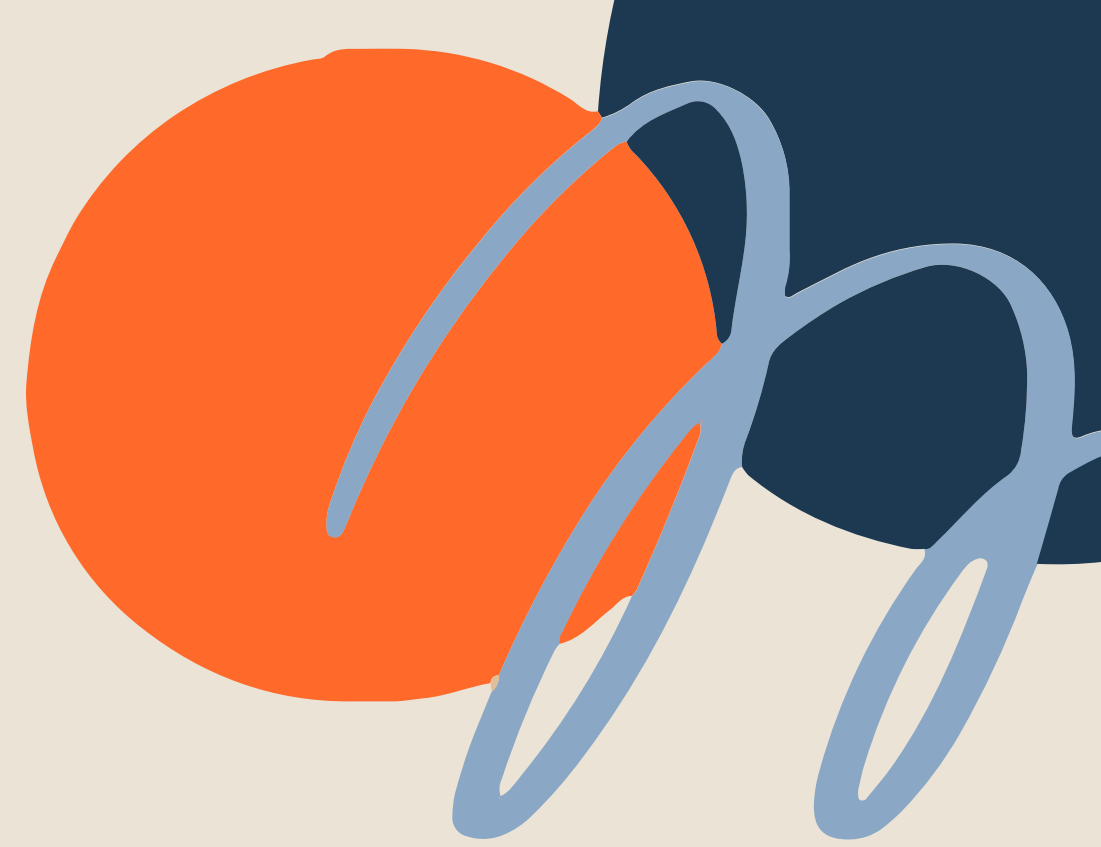
This study received approval from the IWK Health Centre Research Ethics Board

Centre  
for Pediatric  
Pain Research  
SCIENCE HELPING  
CHILDREN




 DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY

# RECRUITING CAREGIVERS OF PATIENTS IN THE IWK KIDS REHAB




Our research study is looking to interview caregivers of children with physical disabilities to understand how disability impacts their risky play behaviours.

## Who can participate ?



Caregivers of children aged 8-13 years, who are currently accessing the **IWK Kids Rehab Clinic** and identify with having a **physical disability**.

## What you'll be asked to do:



Complete a **1-1.5 hour online interview** that will explore **family demographics** and your child's **risky play experiences**.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Maggie Locke  
Lead Researcher  
[mg382955@dal.ca](mailto:mg382955@dal.ca)



# RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

If you would like to tell us your experiences, please contact:

Jennifer Lane

[jennifer.lane@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:jennifer.lane@iwk.nshealth.ca)

(902) 470-2634



**Are you a youth with complex care needs?**

**Are you a parent or caregiver to one?**

**Did you live and seek care in Nova Scotia between March 2020 and March 2022?**

We would like to hear your experiences with public health restrictions and service changes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meetings will be virtual and last about 30 minutes.



REB File #1028207