



PROVINCIAL PRESCHOOL AUTISM SERVICE



Provincial Preschool Autism Service

The **Provincial Preschool Autism Service (PPAS)** is a partnership between **IWK Health**, **Nova Scotia Health**, **Hearing and Speech Nova Scotia**, and **Autism Nova Scotia** providing services and support for preschool-age children and families across Nova Scotia.

- Preschool autism services in Nova Scotia are evolving to support children with autism and their families. The focus is on providing needs-based services, which means that the support offered will be customized to fit the unique strengths, needs, and priorities of each child and family.
- Children and families are at the center of what we do, ensuring that the supports provided meet each child's needs and their family's priorities. Parents and caregivers know their child best.

SUPPORT ACROSS THE PRESCHOOL YEARS

Clinical Intake

A single point of contact for families to access preschool autism services

Care Coordination

Advice and support for families to navigate and coordinate services throughout the preschool years

Transition to School

A supported process for a smooth transition to school



Diagnostic Assessment

A coordinated, centralized waiting list for diagnostic services and enhanced access to diagnostic resources

Intervention Services Across the Preschool Years

In a needs-and goal-based model, services will be matched based on each child's unique needs in the context of their unique family.

Service Legend



Available to **all children** up until Grade Primary. Families can **self-refer** (no referral from a professional required)



Available to **younger** children and children on the **waiting list** for an assessment. Families can **self-refer** (no referral from a professional required)



Requires an **autism diagnosis** to access and offered by date of birth. Families will be **contacted by IWK Health** when services are available.





PPAS OFFERS A RANGE OF SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Services are available across Nova Scotia based on the unique needs of each child and family priorities up until Grade Primary.

Clinical Intake and Care Coordination

- Through IWK Health, PPAS provides a single point of contact for preschool autism services province-wide.
- The Clinical Intake and Care Coordination team guides families to resources and helps arrange services across all PPAS partner organizations based on their child's needs and family's priorities.

Foundational Education

- Gives parents/caregivers trusted tools and strategies to help their child grow and learn.
- Available to access anytime, online, through the Autism Education Series.

Access the
[Autism Education Series](#) by
scanning this
QR code:



Autism Diagnostic Assessment

Provided by IWK Health and Nova Scotia Health

- An assessment for autism can help families to understand their child's strengths and areas of need for further support.
- Through PPAS, there is a single point of contact for accessing assessments through a provincial waiting list.

QuickStart Nova Scotia

Provided by Autism Nova Scotia

- Autism Nova Scotia offers coaching for caregivers of toddlers under 32 months with suspected, provisional or confirmed diagnosis of autism.
- Through QuickStart Nova Scotia, caregivers will receive coaching for supporting their child's development across routine-based activities.



Communication Services

Provided by Hearing and Speech Nova Scotia (HSNS)

- Speech-Language Pathologist support for preschoolers with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of autism, who have speech, language, and communication needs, as identified by the family.
- Depending on the family's goals, this service is available before/after other PPAS services or alongside QuickStart Nova Scotia.

Focused Intervention

Provided by IWK Health in partnership with HSNS

- A short term, flexible and needs-based service for children to develop specific skills based on their individual needs.
- Goal-driven support offered in specific areas like communication, behaviour, play, mealtime, sleep, or toileting.

Early Start Denver Model (ESDM)–Informed Service

Provided by IWK Health in partnership with HSNS

- Helps children learn through play and daily activities at home and in childcare.
- Caregivers and clinicians work together to build a child's motivation to interact, communicate, and learn in the ESDM-Informed Service.

Intensive Service

Provided by IWK Health in partnership with HSNS

- For children with the greatest communication and/or behavioural needs.
- Helps children develop important skills in their everyday environments. Focusing on family-led goals, Intensive Service uses natural learning opportunities to build skills through play, routines, and social interactions.

Transition to School

Guidance and resources are provided to help families prepare their child for Grade Primary. The goal is to ensure children feel ready, confident, and excited as they take this important step into school.