



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE



Developmental Service and Support Program

April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027

Program Guide and FAQ



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Program Description

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to offer the Developmental Services and Support Program for Métis of Ontario children 0-12 years old to support their healthy growth and development. Focusing on child development early intervention services, the program is designed to support the social, physical, and developmental well-being of our Métis children.

The Métis Nation of Ontario recognizes that the early years are critical to a child's development. Access to early intervention services helps children achieve appropriate developmental milestones and improve educational outcomes. The Developmental Services and Support Program is designed to meet the needs of Métis children and enhance access to evidence-informed clinical services and early intervention supports in their homes, child care, or school settings.

The Developmental Services and Support Program is facilitated through the Early Learning and Child Care Developmental Resource Consultant Program.

Funding for any service or support is at the sole discretion of the MNO following assessment of the complete application and supporting documentation.

The Developmental Services and Support Program is reviewed and updated annually. Families must review the guidelines thoroughly, as eligibility and program parameters may change yearly.

The DSS program is a Bridge Funding Program (temporary short-term funding). Bridge funding provides short-term financial assistance to help families access approved services without delay.

In some situations, a child may be approved for services or supports, but government funding, program placement, or long-term funding does not begin immediately. Bridge funding helps cover the cost of services during this waiting period. This ensures that children can begin or continue receiving support right away, reducing gaps in service and helping maintain progress.

Example: A child is approved for speech therapy, but school funding will not begin for nine months.

Bridge funding can be used to pay for therapy sessions during this time, so services are not interrupted

Eligibility

- The child must be between 0 (zero) and 12 (twelve) years of age.
- Enrollment will end on the final day of the child's 12 (twelfth) year.
- To ensure sufficient time to complete all necessary steps and initialize services, the child must not be turning 13 (thirteen) within 6 (six) months of the initial referral to the program, and all interventions must be complete by the child's 13th (thirteenth) birthday.
- The parent/guardian, or child, must be an MNO citizen eligible for direct support.
- The family must reside in the Province of Ontario.
- Proof of custodial arrangement may be required.
- Funding for eligible intervention services is based on the MNO's internal eligibility screening. It must be supported by external documents or recommendations from a certified professional in their field (for example, a doctor or pediatrician's letter, recommendations on a psychological assessment, a letter from the classroom/child care centre educator, etc.).



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Waitlist

- When the program budget maximum is reached, new applicants will be placed on a waitlist.
- The waitlist will be evaluated quarterly based on funding allocations.
- Waitlist files will be triaged quarterly based on emerging needs.
- Children with complex needs impacting access to school and child care or experiencing other barriers caused by a recent diagnosis will be given priority.
- To ensure early intervention access, children between the ages of 0 and 8 with complex needs or a new diagnosis will be given priority.
- Any applications received after October 15th, 2026, will be put on a waitlist for any funding that may become available in the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year.

Application 0-12 Years Old

- The Developmental Resource Consultant (DRC) Program facilitates the Developmental Services and Support Program for children ages 0 to 12.
- Applications to the Developmental Services and Support Program are through the Developmental Supports and Services Application, which is made available to clients as of April 1 of the funding year.

Determining Developmental Needs

- Once the application has been completed, the DRC Program Staff will request information and documentation to determine whether the child has developmental needs and is eligible for support through the Developmental Services and Support Program.
- DRC program staff will use this information and documentation to complete the internal Child Development Screening Tool. They may require further information from parents/guardians during this step. Please ensure that the DRC staff gives them the most accurate information possible.
- DRC program staff will work with the parent/guardian to determine if support, services, or funding is available externally. This can include the Ontario Autism Program, community organizations, the child's school, or others. They may also ask the parent/guardian if the child has any benefit coverage through the parent/guardian's employment. This may affect eligibility in the program if the parent/guardian is receiving publicly funded services.
- Before accessing the Developmental Services and Support Program, program staff will ensure that the child is on any available lists for publicly funded services and support.
- This process may take up to 3 months.

Program Guidelines

The following are general guidelines for the 2026/2027 Developmental Services and Support Program:

- The Developmental Services and Support Program is offered Ontario-wide and includes funding for services and support to Métis children 0-12.



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- Funded services may be delivered in person, over the phone, or by video conference.
- Service providers must be in Ontario, except for children in northern Ontario (services in Manitoba may be accessed) or in Ottawa (services in Gatineau may be accessed).
- The Developmental Services and Support Program provides funding for services until the program budget is exhausted and/or other funding sources can be accessed.
- The Developmental Resource Consultant will continually work with the parent or guardian to determine whether support, services, or funding are available externally.
- External Supports can include the Ontario Autism Program, community organizations, the child's school, or others.
- The Developmental Resource Consultant will support the parent/guardian in the application process to access any available external funding sources.
- Support cannot be transferred between fiscal years or shared between siblings.
- Funding follows the MNO's fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- Funding does not roll over to additional fiscal years. Funding cannot be "saved" to combine with the following year's maximum to increase amounts.
- The intervention service or support must be developmentally appropriate and align with the child's age and developmental stage. The plan must be based on the child's assessed needs and included in the child's support plan. **Service approval is at the sole discretion of the MNO.**
- Intervention services and supports must be indicated by the Developmental Services and Support Program screening tool and supported through external documentation from a qualified professional (doctor, audiologist, psychologist, occupational therapist, etc). Appropriate documentation includes a pediatrician's letter, a support provider's assessment, and an educator's recommendation.
- The Developmental Services and Support Program reimburses support providers directly, except in the case of Respite Services
- Reimbursement for previously paid-for services is not guaranteed, is at the sole discretion of the MNO, and will be based upon program budgets.
- Reimbursement for previously paid-for services is only eligible for services within the same fiscal year (April 1 to March 31 annually).
- Parents/guardians must consent to data sharing between the MNO and the service provider to be eligible for the Developmental Services and Support Program.
- Funding for intervention services requires consent from the parent or guardian for data sharing between the MNO and the service provider.
- ELCC staff cannot make specific intervention services recommendations or referrals.
- ELCC DRC staff cannot formally diagnose children or make diagnosis recommendations based on information received from families.
- All funds are per child.
- **Reimbursement and funding for any service or support are at the sole discretion of the MNO after the complete application and supporting documentation are assessed until budget funding is exhausted.**



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Disclaimers

- While the ELCC staff monitors the service provider's professional governing bodies, and the Developmental Services and Support Program supports accredited service providers, the MNO does not endorse or guarantee service quality from any external provider or organization.
- The MNO is not responsible for any mistreatment from external practitioners. Families are encouraged to do independent research on any service provider.
- The MNO will review alternate service providers requested by families. Eligibility will be determined using internal processes and is not guaranteed.

Terms of Service

The Developmental Resource Consultants facilitate the Developmental Services and Support Program. To maintain the parent/guardian eligibility for the program, the parent/guardian must follow the guidelines in the Terms of Service agreement, including the following:

- Attend all meetings and appointments with the MNO staff and identified partners.
 - Attend a monthly meeting with the DRC/(at minimum).
- A 24-hour notice is required for cancelled meetings.
- If three scheduled appointments are missed, services are automatically withdrawn, and a discharge summary will be provided.
- The family is responsible for ensuring attendance for all scheduled appointments through the Developmental Services and Support Program.
- MNO is not responsible for reimbursement for fees or penalties for more than three missed appointments with the provider.
- The family must review and agree to their service provider's terms of service and policies regarding service.
- If the parent or guardian is unresponsive to the Resource Consultant, the file will be closed after three attempts at contact.
- Inform the Developmental Resource Consultant of changes to the parent/guardian address, contact information, or child's development or progress.
- Parents/guardians must notify the Developmental Resource Consultant if they move out of the province of Ontario. According to MNO policy, the Developmental Resource Consultant and the Developmental Services and Support Program are only available for Métis citizens residing in Ontario.
- If a parent or guardian plans to move out of the province, connect with the Developmental Resource Consultant as early as possible so they can help the parent or guardian find other programs available in the new province. Any pre-approved funding for services will be terminated upon leaving the province of Ontario.
- If you are suspended from services with the Developmental Services and Support program, you will not be eligible for services in the following fiscal years.
- If you are currently finishing services that were allotted in the past fiscal year, you will not be eligible to apply for the program until all services are completed for that year.



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It is essential to stay connected with the DRC programs to ensure the child receives efficient and effective services.

Reimbursement for Services

- Service providers will be directly reimbursed for services by the MNO.
- The MNO is unable to issue payment directly to families for service. This excludes Respite Services
- Service providers will be required to submit an invoice to the MNO.
- Service providers must be willing to receive reimbursement directly from the MNO.
- The deadline for submitting invoices is March 15 of each year.
- Providers must issue invoices that indicate the client's address, name of child, date of service, amount owing, and name of service provider, including (address, and contact information).
- The MNO cannot reimburse a family for service received from a friend, family member, or provider who is not impartial to the family.

Program Parameters

Eligible Services and Support Categories

The following services and support are eligible for the maximum reimbursement listed in the following section. Services and Support not included in the list below do not qualify for reimbursement through the Developmental Services and Support Program.

Early Intervention Services

- Psychological Assessment
- Psycho-Educational Assessment
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy

Autism Support

- Applied Behaviour Analysis
- Intensive Behavioural Intervention
- Social Skills groups
- Transitional Supports
- Respite
- Play therapy
- Enhanced ratio staffing for summer camp

Parent Support

- Parent Coaching
- Parenting groups
- Respite

Other Support



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- Executive functioning coach
- Life skills development
- Play therapy
- Enhanced ratio staffing for summer camps

Travel to Developmental Services Appointments

- Mileage
- Hotel
- Meals

Maximum Amount Reimbursed for Services by Child

- The maximum amount that will be reimbursed is up to \$6,000.00 per child per fiscal year, NOT including an assessment, until the program funds have been exhausted.
- While this is the maximum allowable amount, the parent/guardian is not guaranteed to receive the maximum per year. Amounts are approved based on the program budget, the needs of other applicants, and the child's developmental needs.
- Services will be approved on a needs basis with no more than two services being approved at a time, not including an assessment. Any services approved after will be at the sole discretion of the Developmental Services and Supports Program.
- As each child's needs are unique, the Developmental Services and Support program will provide equitable support based on presenting needs.
- The Developmental Services and Support program does not guarantee funding.



Maximum Amount Reimbursed for Services

The following maximum amounts have been based on market research on potential services and support costs. These amounts will be reviewed, and my change will be made annually.

Category/Service	Maximum	Conditions	Age Range
Assessment (Psychological/Psycho-educational)	Up to \$6,500	One (1) assessment every four (4) fiscal years	4-12
Speech and Language	Up to \$3,000	Per fiscal year	0-12
Occupational Therapy	Up to \$3,000	Per fiscal year	0-12
Autism Support (0-12)	Up to \$6,000	Per fiscal year	0-12
Parent Support	Up to \$1,500	Per child per fiscal year	Parent/guardian of a child 0-12
Other Support	Up to \$3,000	Per fiscal year *see conditions section for individual service eligibility*	*See conditions section for individual service eligibility*
Travel to appointments	Up to \$500	Per fiscal year	Parent/guardian of a child 0-12
Developmental Resources Purchases (see list below)	Up to \$500	Per fiscal year	0-12

***** Reimbursement and funding for any service or support is at the sole discretion of the MNO following assessment of the complete application and supporting documentation until budget funding is exhausted. *****

Conditions by Service

Developmental Services

Assessments (psychological and psycho-educational)

- A registered Psychologist in good standing with the College of Psychologists of Ontario must complete an assessment.
- A child must be between 4 and 12 years old to have an assessment completed and funded by the MNO unless otherwise approved by a pediatrician with a supporting letter.
- Assessments are eligible once every four years per child. If the child has had an assessment within the past 4 years, the MNO will not pay for another assessment until the fourth anniversary of the last evaluation.
- Assessments must be indicated by the Developmental Services and Support Program screening tool and supported through external documentation, e.g., a pediatrician letter, support provider assessment, educator recommendation, etc.
- The assessment report must be shared with the Developmental Resource Consultant Team.



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[Speech-Language Pathology \(SLP\)](#)

- SLP services must be delivered or supervised by a Speech-Language Pathologist or an SLP assistant under the supervision of an SLP, who is registered and in good standing with the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario.
- Services must be initialized with an assessment shared with the Developmental Services and Support Program, including clear goals or a support plan.

[Occupational Therapy \(OT\)](#)

- Occupational Therapy must be delivered or supervised by a registered Occupational Therapist in good standing with the Ontario College of Occupational Therapists.
- Services must be initialized with an assessment shared with the Developmental Services and Support Program, including clear goals or support plans.

[Autism Supports](#)

All services listed in this section are eligible only for children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis.

[Applied Behaviour Analysis \(ABA\) and Intensive Behavioural Intervention \(IBI\)](#)

- ABA and/or IBI services must be delivered or supervised by a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA), Psychologist, or Psychological Associate registered with the College of Psychologists of Ontario.
- Due to the long-term nature of ABA and IBI and program budget constraints, they are only eligible for limited-time funding. This funding is available only until the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) is accessed or three consecutive years of sessions (whichever is the shortest time).
- Services must be initialized with an assessment shared with the Developmental Services and Support Program, including clear goals or a support plan.

[Social Skills Group](#)

- Only in-person groups are eligible.
- Offered through a recognized organization.
- **Groups MUST focus on social skill learning and set goals for social skills building for children with ASD. Community groups, local playgroups, and online or gaming subscriptions are not eligible.**
- Any groups or sessions eligible for the Extra-Curricular Support Program are **NOT ELIGIBLE**.

[Transitional Supports](#)

- Eligible for children 3-4 years old transitioning to school.



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- Programs may include Entry to School, Transition Time, and other programs offered through a recognized organization such as Thrive and Hands TheFamilyHelpNetwork.ca.

Respite (Maximum amount for ASD funds - \$3000.00)

- Available for families who are caring for a child who is under 12 and has an ASD diagnosis, lives at home, and requires care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Must be provided by individuals with the appropriate skills and abilities to respond effectively to the child and family's needs. Respite workers need to be at least 18 years of age.
- Can be provided by anyone EXCEPT the following:
 - Primary caregiver or spouse of the primary caregiver.
 - Parent or stepparent of the child.
 - Anyone under the age of 18 years old.
- Families must ensure the qualifications of the person(s) providing respite. The MNO recommends that families require prospective respite staff to provide a vulnerable sector check and proof of First Aid/CPR certification. ***The Developmental Services and Support Program is not responsible for hiring or completing background screenings on the respite staff or environment where the respite is provided.***
- Once the family has selected and completed a thorough background check, the person they wish to provide respite services must submit their resume to the MNO to ensure qualifications.
- Once approved, a monthly reimbursement form will be sent to the family to complete.

Play Therapy (ASD)

- Available for children ages 0-12.
- Can include individual or integrated play groups.
- Only in-person groups are eligible.
- Offered through a recognized organization.
- Groups must be led or supervised by a Social Worker or Psychotherapist who is registered and in good standing with their professional college.
- **Groups MUST use specific principles and techniques for children with ASD. Community groups, local playgroups, and online or gaming subscriptions are not eligible.**
- Any groups or sessions eligible for the Extra-Curricular Support Program are **NOT ELIGIBLE** through the Developmental Services and Support Program.

Enhanced Ratio Staffing for Summer Camps (ASD)

- Is eligible in collaboration with the summer camp and follows all rules and regulations about staffing at each unique camp.
- The camp is responsible for hiring and background checks of the staff members and will be required to invoice the MNO for the cost.
- The summer camp must ensure the qualifications of the person(s) providing enhanced ratio



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staffing. The MNO recommends that families require prospective staff to provide a vulnerable sector check and proof of First Aid/CPR certification. ***The Developmental Services and Support*** ***The program is not responsible for hiring or conducting background screenings for enhanced-ratio staff.***

- Enhanced staffing for overnight camp is not eligible.
- Enhanced ratio staff cannot be persons related to the child.
- Enhanced ratio staff must have the appropriate skills and abilities to respond effectively to the child and family's needs.
- Enhanced ratio staff is approved on a case-by-case basis. The family must submit a letter from the summer camp supporting the requirement for enhanced staffing ratios and the barrier the camp faces in providing staff for the child.
- The enhanced ratio staff is not an employee of the family or the MNO. They are required to be summer camp employees.

Parent Support

Services listed in this section are available to parents and legal guardians of children aged 0-12 with a diagnosis or suspected developmental disability or delay. While these services are offered to parents/guardians, they must address child development and have goals to increase parents/guardians' understanding of their child's development, build skills to support their child, and support a recent child development diagnosis.

Parent Coaching

- Parent coaching must be delivered or supervised by a registered social worker or psychologist in good standing with their professional college.
- Parent Coaching is provided per child. If a custody agreement exists, funding will be split according to the living arrangement (e.g., 50/50).

Parenting Groups

- Must be offered through a recognized organization.
- Groups must be family-focused and evidence-based, increasing parents' understanding of children's health, development, safety, and behaviour.
- Topics or activities related to increasing understanding of the child's developmental needs and recent diagnosis.
- Eligible programs can include support groups, Hanen, Triple P, etc.
- Parenting groups are provided per child. If a custody agreement is in place, funding will be split based on the living arrangement in the custody agreement.
- Groups will be approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Any groups or sessions eligible for the Extra-Curricular Support Program are **NOT ELIGIBLE**.



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Respite

- Available for families who are caring for a child who is under 12 and has a complex needs diagnosis, lives at home, and requires care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Individuals must provide the respite with the appropriate skills and abilities to respond effectively to the child and family's needs.
- Respite Worker must be at least 18 years of age.
- Can be provided by anyone EXCEPT the following:
 - Primary caregiver or spouse of the primary caregiver.
 - Parent or stepparent of the child.
 - Anyone under 18 years of age.
- Families must ensure the qualifications of the person(s) providing respite. The MNO recommends families require prospective respite staff to provide a vulnerable sector check and proof of First Aid/CPR certification. ***The Developmental Services and Support Program is not responsible for hiring or completing background screenings on the respite staff or the environment where the respite is provided.***
- Once the family has selected and completed a thorough background check, the person they wish to provide respite services must submit their resume to the MNO to ensure qualifications.



Other Supports

Services listed in this section are available for children with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis other than Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Executive Functioning Coach

- Eligible for children ages 8-12.
- Must be offered through a recognized organization.
- Services must be initialized with an assessment shared with the Developmental Services and Support Program, including clear goals or support plans.

Life Skills Development

- Must be offered through a recognized organization.
- Programs must include goals related to life skills development, including communication, time management, problem-solving, money management, cooking, hygiene, household chores, independence, and budgeting, as seen through a child development lens.
- **Groups must use specific principles and techniques to teach life skills to children with developmental disabilities or delays. Community groups, local playgroups, and online or gaming subscriptions are not eligible.**
- Any groups or sessions eligible for the Extra-Curricular Support Program are **NOT ELIGIBLE**.

Play Therapy (not ASD)

- Can include individual or integrated play groups.
- Only in-person groups are eligible.
- Offered through a recognized organization.
- Groups must be led or supervised by a social worker or psychotherapist who is registered and in good standing with their professional college.
- **Groups MUST use specific principles and techniques for children with developmental disabilities or delays. Community groups, local playgroups, and online or gaming subscriptions are not eligible.**
- Any groups or sessions eligible for the Extra-Curricular Support Program are **NOT ELIGIBLE**.

Enhanced Ratio Staffing for Summer Camps

- Is eligible in collaboration with the summer camp and follows all rules and regulations about staffing at each unique camp.
- The camp is responsible for hiring and background checks of the staff members and will be required to invoice the MNO for the cost.
- The summer camp must ensure the qualifications of the person(s) providing enhanced ratio



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staffing. The MNO recommends that families require prospective staff to provide a vulnerable sector check and proof of First Aid/CPR certification. ***The Developmental Services and Support Program is not responsible for hiring or conducting background screenings for enhanced-ratio staff.***

- Enhanced staffing for overnight camp is not eligible.
- Enhanced ratio staff cannot be persons related to the child.
- Enhanced ratio staff must have the appropriate skills and abilities to respond effectively to the child and family's needs.
- The enhanced ratio staff is not an employee of the family or the MNO. They are required to be summer camp employees.
- Enhanced ratio staff is approved on a case-by-case basis. The family must submit a letter from the summer camp supporting the requirement for enhanced ratio staffing and the barrier to the summer camp in providing the staff for the child.
- **The Developmental Services and Support Program does not fund camp admission fees.**

Travel Expenses

- This option is available for families travelling over 200 kilometres one way to an appointment listed in this guide's eligible services and support section.
- Eligible for costs related to travel over 150 KMs one way:
 - Mileage
 - Meals for the child while travelling
- Eligible for costs related to travel over 200 KMs one way:
 - Mileage
 - Meals for the child while travelling
 - Accommodations
- Funds will be reimbursed via direct deposit into the parent/guardian's bank account on file.
- When requesting travel expenses, we will require the following documents:



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- Receipt of the expense.
- Proof of appointment.
- Address for start and end location.
- Void cheque or direct deposit form.
- Please note: banking information must be in the name of the MNO citizen.
- Mileage will be reimbursed per the MNO's transportation policy at \$0.635/KM.
- Meals are only eligible for the child attending the developmental services appointment. Funding cannot be shared between siblings or other family members.
- Reimbursement may take up to six weeks.

Developmental Resources Purchases

Program Materials and Therapy Equipment

- The Developmental Services and Support Program may purchase materials or other equipment with the following parameters:
 - Items are required based on the child's assessed needs, are recommended by a regulated professional, and are included in the child's support plan.
 - The recommending professional supports the use of any of the items.
- Requests for purchasing items must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation or included in an assessment from a regulated professional.
- Maximum of \$500 per child per fiscal year.
- The developmental Resource Consultant will make the purchases and ship them to the child (shipping costs are not included in the \$500 and will be covered by the program).
- Please see a list of eligible supports on page 24 of this guide.

Services and Supports NOT Eligible for Reimbursement Under the Program

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of items that are not eligible under the program. This is due to the program's design and purpose, the funding terms and conditions, and the MNO financial policies. Items that are similar but not explicitly mentioned will be included.

- Tutoring.
- Physiotherapy.
- Chiropractic services.
- Orthotics or foot care services (for example, custom shoes).
- Naturopath services.
- Hearing tests.
- Eating disorder clinics (assessment and treatment).
- Diabetic services.
- Sleep disorder testing or equipment (for example, a sleep apnea mask or machine).
- Providers out of province or country (except families in northwestern Ontario and Ottawa areas).



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- Fees for other therapies, services, and supports not identified as eligible core intervention services (e.g., physiotherapy for a sports injury, psychiatry, massage therapy, etc.).
- Respite services without an Autism Spectrum Disorder or complex needs diagnosis.
- Medical devices (for example, wheelchairs, crutches, etc.).
- Clinical medical services (pediatrician, allergy clinics, asthma clinics, vision, hearing or dental services, epi-pens, hearing aids, inhalers, etc.).
- Eyeglasses or vision appointments.
- Braces or orthodontic care.
- Mental health services (counselling, psychotherapy, etc.).
- Services paid for through the Ontario Autism Program or the Ontario Disability Support Program.
- Private school tuition or child care fees.
- Forest school programs.
- Field trip costs.
- Homeschooling fees.
- 1:1 support staff in schools or child care.
- Fees associated with registering or purchasing a certified service or guide dog/animal.
- Cancellation fees for missed or cancelled sessions.
- Travel costs not associated with directly accessing eligible services and supports.
- Home modifications (for example, wheelchair ramp, acorn stairlift, etc.).
- Any items, services, or activities that are qualified under the extra-curricular program (for example:
 - Soccer
 - Hockey
 - Dance
 - Badminton
 - Horseback riding lessons
 - Other
- Assistive technology (for example, laptops, communication aid devices).
- Surgical procedures (such as brain, heart, arm, dental, or elective surgery).
- Medication costs and costs associated with prescriptions.
- Supplements or vitamins.
- Residential full-time care (for example, child placement in a day treatment center).
- Personal support worker services (feeding, bathing, home cleaning, etc.).
- Home cleaning services.
- Food services delivered to home (for example, Hello Fresh, Every Plate, etc.) or any costs associated with food or groceries.
- Nanny or babysitting fees.
- Vehicle modifications.



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- Ambulance fees.
- Private hospice care.
- Fees associated with funerals.
- Parking and speeding tickets while travelling to appointments.
- Toll charges while travelling to appointments.

Service Providers

- The Developmental Services and Support Program will provide families with a list of eligible service providers in their area.
- Eligibility is based on the following criteria:
The service provider must
 - Be in good standing with their governing body.
 - Must not have any cautions or verified complaints on their record.
 - Must not be under investigation for misconduct or incompetence.
 - Must possess the minimum education required by their field of practice.
- Service providers must be able to provide service invoices and accept payments from the MNO.

Requesting an Alternate Service Provider

Guidelines

Families may request to use an alternate service provider that is not on the list of eligible service providers. Families may request an alternative provider based on factors such as location, hours, or service philosophy.

Program staff must assess alternate service providers to ensure eligibility, which may take up to 20 business days. Alternate providers must meet the above eligibility criteria and **provide evidence-based, universally accepted services, including providing appropriate consents and signed service agreements.**

If a service provider is declared "not eligible," the parent/guardian may request a review by emailing the Developmental Resource Consultant supervisor, Shannon Merriman, at shannonm@metisnation.org. Requests may also be forwarded to the ELCC Manager for review.

Appeals and Complaints

Guidelines

- Every funding request is reviewed according to the program's parameters based on individual circumstances and the information provided in the program.
- The MNO ELCC team follows the MNO's Policies on Prevention of Workplace Harassment (POLICY NO. 3.030) and Violence and Respectful Workplace (POLICY NO. 3.020).
<https://www.metisnation.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/policies-and-procedures-manual-may-1-2020.pdf>



- While we understand frustrations, yelling, harassing, or sending hurtful emails or phone calls to ELCC staff is never ok. This includes:
 - Ignoring or disrespecting response time guidelines, including sending frequent phone calls or emails to ELCC staff with the expectation that they respond quicker to the parent/guardian.
 - Multiple calls and emails will not increase our response time and may create additional delays.
 - Calling ELCC staff derogatory words via phone call or email.
 - Make "threats" to go to a Community Council President, PCMNO Regional Councillor, or President of the Métis Nation of Ontario if the parent/guardian disagrees with a decision made by the ELCC team.
 - Using frequent passive-aggressive language via phone or email.
 - Swearing or using racial slurs.
 - Threats of violence to ELCC staff or their families.
- Failure to comply with these policies will result in an incident report being sent to the Director of Education and Training. It may also result in the parent/guardian's ELCC file being closed.
- Please be mindful that ELCC staff are people, too. There is a person behind that phone call or email. Adverse treatment of any ELCC staff member will not be tolerated. Many are also MNO citizens who love supporting other citizens and take great pride in their work. They have families and a life outside of their work hours. We kindly ask all families accessing this program to treat all ELCC staff with dignity, respect, and kindness.
- ELCC staff strives to provide the best support possible to our citizens with kindness, respect, and dignity.

Procedure

- The Parent/guardian can request a review of a funding decision by emailing Shannon Merriman, Developmental Resource Consultant Program Supervisor, at shannonm@metisnation.org. Please include the parent/guardian's full name and best contact number.
- Appeals must be submitted in writing within two months of receipt of the decision letter.
- The ELCC manager will review the appeal, which may take up to ten business days.
- The review is sent to the Director of Education and Training for the final decision.
- The Director of Education and Training reviews all final appeal decisions with no exceptions.

Complaints

- If an ELCC staff member breaks the above policies, please email Shannon Merriman, Supervisor of the ELCC Developmental Resource Consultant program (shannonm@metisnation.org). Please provide the staff member's name, the date and time, and a description of the incident. Shannon will follow up within ten business days and may request additional information. Severe occurrences will be brought to the Director of Education and Training.



Frequently Asked Questions

General Program Questions

[What changes are happening to the Developmental Resource Consultant \(DRC\) program?](#)

- The service and support the child receives from the DRC program have not changed. The program will continue to offer advocacy support, navigation assistance, specialized knowledge, and guidance related to the child's development.
- The DRC will assist the parent/guardian should they need to access the new Developmental Services and Support Program.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

[One of my children does not require any of the services or supports listed. Can I use their funds for a sibling?](#)

- Funds are not transferable between children.

[We did not use all of the support from the previous year, or we won't use it all this year. Can I transfer the funding to future years?](#)

- Support cannot be transferred to different fiscal years.

[My child requires specific support that is not listed in this guide. What support is available?](#)

- If the child has specific needs that the general program guidelines may not meet, don't hesitate to contact your Developmental Resource Consultant.
- Support is available on a case-by-case basis. Documentation may be required.

[The service my child is receiving doesn't seem to work for my child, and I want to end or find a new service provider. Is this allowed?](#)

- The Developmental Services and Support Program is family-centred and believes families can choose the best services and service providers for their children.
- Families may end service if they feel it is not the right fit for their child.
- Families may be responsible for paying any late cancellation fees.
- Whether you are approved to choose an alternate provider will depend on the program budget and the internal approval process for service providers.
- The Developmental Services and Support Program does not guarantee eligibility for families who change service providers mid-session.

Program Eligibility

[Do I qualify for the Developmental Services and Support Program?](#)



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- A parent, guardian, or child must be an MNO citizen.
- The MNO citizen is eligible for the Direct Benefit Programs and Services Policy.
- The child must be between 0 and 12.
- The child must reside in Ontario.

[I am an MNO citizen and have a kinship with my grandchildren/family. Can we access this program?](#)

- Yes, you can apply for this program for your grandchildren if you have a kinship and are an MNO citizen.
- We require supporting documentation to confirm kinship.

[My child is turning 13 this year. When do supports end?](#)

- The Developmental Services and Support Program is available to children aged 0 (zero) to 12 (twelve). Eligibility ends on the child's 13th (thirteenth) birthday.

[My child has aged out of the program; what other support are there for children 13+ years old?](#)

- Due to the program's terms and conditions, ELCC cannot support children aged 13 and over.
- Supports are available for children and their parents/guardians through other MNO programs. Some opportunities include:
 - For other opportunities – Please visit the MNO website or social media for upcoming initiatives or events.
 - Métis Stay in School Program: <https://www.metisnation.org/programs-and-services/education-training/k-12-education-support/metis-stay-in-school-program/>
 - Please contact your local MNO Community Council, as many councils provide programming and opportunities for Métis youth.

[How long will accessing the Developmental Services and Support Program take?](#)

- If you are currently involved in the DRC program, it can take up to three months for the DRC to complete the screening process and review any documents submitted.
- If you are a new family, the process can take up to four months as we complete the intake process and connect you with a DRC who will connect with the MNO registry team to confirm MNO citizenship. The DRC will then connect with the parent/guardian and collect any available documentation (e.g., doctor's letters, assessment reports, Ontario Student Record (OSR)).
- The DRC will contact the parent/guardian throughout the process to ensure the parent/guardian understands the timelines.

[I have four children, and two are diagnosed with ASD. Are all of my children able to access funding?](#)



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- Funding is available for children ages 0- 12 with a formal diagnosis from a registered professional in their governing body or who have a suspected developmental delay supported by documentation.
- If your child may have a diagnosis but has not had a formal assessment, please contact DRCsupport@metisnation.org to connect with the Developmental Resource Consultant Program.
- Funding cannot be shared between children.
- Due to the program's terms and conditions, ELCC cannot support children aged 13 and over.

[I am moving, what do I do?](#)

Within the province of Ontario

- Families receiving support from the Developmental Services and Support program must inform their MNO staff within 30 days before changing their address when moving within Ontario.
- It is the family's responsibility to keep the MNO updated. Failure to inform the program of the address change may delay or terminate service.
- Services can not be provided outside the province of Ontario
- When moving outside Ontario, families must inform the Developmental Services and Support Program within 60 days of the change of address.
- As the Developmental Services and Support Program cannot offer coverage for citizens outside of the province of Ontario, it is the family's responsibility to locate alternate services for their child.
- Moving outside the province of Ontario will result in discharge from the Developmental Services and Support program and ineligibility for programs and services.



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How long will I be on the waitlist?

- The Developmental Services and Support Program team regularly reviews the service waitlist and will contact the parent/guardian family if a space becomes available.
- As each child supported through the Developmental Services and Support Program has unique needs, we cannot give an exact time to expect to be on the waitlist.
- The Developmental Services and Support Program will triage those on the waitlist based on emerging needs and the impact on accessing educational environments, challenges to daily life, or barriers to accessing services the developmental need creates for the child.

I have shared custody of my child. Do we both get to access the maximum amount of funding?

- Funding amounts are by child.
- If there is a custody agreement, the Developmental Services and Support Program requires families to share that with their Developmental Resource Consultant Advocate during the intake process.
- Funding for parent support will be allocated based on the living arrangement laid out in the custody arrangement (for example, 60 percent for parent A, 40 percent for parent B).
- All other funds are per child and are for a single service provider (for example, only one assessment will be completed, not one for each household).

I am separated from my child's other parent. Can we each get a copy of the assessment?

- Parents are required to attend shared meetings, such as assessment result meetings, whenever possible. This ensures consistency in the message and removes duplicate funding requests.
- If there are barriers to parents attending the same meeting (for example, if there is a legal order of protection), please discuss options with the Developmental Resource Consultant Reimbursement

How will the services or support provider receive reimbursement?

- The service provider will be paid directly from the MNO.
- The service provider must submit an invoice to the MNO for the services.

I paid for SLP/OT out of pocket and just finished sessions. Can I be reimbursed for those sessions?

- The MNO is unable to reimburse for previously paid services.

I missed my child's appointment, and the provider states there is a no-call, no-show fee. Does the MNO cover that?

- The Developmental Services and Support Program cannot support more than three penalties for missing appointments. The family is responsible for ensuring they attend appointments or reschedule as needed, in accordance with the service provider's guidelines on cancellations.



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[I had to pay my doctor's fee to request a letter of support for documentation purposes. Can I submit the cost?](#)

- As part of the document collection process, the ELCC staff member may request a doctor's or other professional letter of recommendation or support. If a parent or guardian encounters this fee, please contact the DRC before accepting the charge. The Developmental Services and Support Program will work with the parent or guardian to find a no-cost alternative.

Services and Support

[Can the service provider be located outside of Ontario?](#)

- The program can only be accessed by MNO citizens who reside in Ontario.
- Service providers must be located in Ontario with the following exceptions:
 - Children residing in northern Ontario may access service providers in Manitoba.
 - Children residing in Ottawa may access service providers in Gatineau, Quebec.

[Why did my other child/cousin/family member receive approval for x service, but I was declined?](#)

- Every application is reviewed according to the program's parameters based on individual circumstances and information provided to the program.
- A parent or guardian can request a review of the application by emailing Shannon Merriman, DRC supervisor, at shannonm@metisnation.org. Please include the parent or guardian's full name and contact number in the email. Reviews may take up to ten business days.

[I received x funding last year; why has it declined this year?](#)

- The DRC team reviews the Developmental Services and Support Program each year, including adding or removing services that no longer align with the program's mandate.
- Funding amounts and maximums will change annually based on the number of children supported.
- The Developmental Services and Support Program is facilitated by the Developmental Resource Consultants and used to guide goals and service plans. Failure to follow the terms of the service agreement may result in removal from the program.

[My child is having difficulty in school- can I hire a tutor? My child is homeschooled, and an educator supports us. Can this be supported?](#)

- The ELCC Developmental Services and Support Program cannot fund tutoring due to the funding terms and conditions, the ongoing nature of tutoring, and the age group we support.



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- Please contact the Developmental Resource Consultant or other MNO program staff to investigate the support available through the school or community resources, such as the local library.

[I am homeschooling my children. Can I still access the program?](#)

- The Developmental Services and Support Program is available to MNO citizens ages 0-12 regardless of their educational environment. Families can access the program if they meet all eligibility criteria for specific services.

[My child needs ABA, SLP, and OT. Can I receive funding for all those services?](#)

- The Developmental Resource Consultant will work with the parent/guardian to formulate a plan to access services that will best support the child's needs at a pace that works for the parent/guardian child.
- The timeline for services and support will be based on formal assessments, available documentation, and the program budget.
- The maximum amount that will be reimbursed is \$6,000.00 per child per fiscal year, NOT including a psychological or psycho-educational assessment, until the program funds have been exhausted.
- The maximum allowable services per year is capped at two services, all of which must fall in the funding guidelines.

[My child's school says that my child needs an assessment, but our family doctor says they are too young; what do we do?](#)

- The Developmental Services and Support Program uses all available documents and information to determine program eligibility.
- The Developmental Services and Support Program is family-centered and helps families make choices that best suit their needs. If External documentation, such as an educator's letter, doctor's recommendations, or other documents from certified service providers, supports it, such as an educator's letter, doctor's recommendations, or other documents from accredited service providers.
- Our team can offer suggestions, but it is ultimately up to the family to make final decisions.

[My child requires Aqua Therapy. Does this program cover that fee?](#)

- Due to the Developmental Services and Support Program's funding terms and conditions, we cannot offer coverage for aqua therapy.

[How old does my child have to be for a psychological assessment?](#)

- The minimum age for an assessment is generally 4.5 years old. However, every child is unique,



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and the Developmental Services and Support Program uses available documentation to determine whether a child is eligible for an assessment based on the recommendations given by certified professionals.

- The purpose of the assessment may determine the minimum age of an evaluation.

[My child receives X service \(SLP, OT, etc.\) through school. Can I also receive services through the MNO?](#)

- The Developmental Services and Support Program will not fund services already in place through another external source to ensure no duplication of services, contradictory processes and/or goals, confusion for the family, or overwhelming the child.

Staff

[What are the DRC team's working hours?](#)

- Most MNO staff work Monday to Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm, based on their time zone.
- Some of our staff work outside of these hours. We will respond to the parent/guardian within two business days, and this does not include weekends, holidays, etc.
- Any communication sent outside the MNO operational hours will not be responded to until business hours resume. This includes holidays and weekends. We will reply to the parent/guardian within two business days. We encourage a work-life balance for our Developmental Resource Consultants.
- During high-volume times, ELCC Developmental Resource Consultants will set up an automatic reply informing families that our response time may be delayed.
- If the parent/guardian does not get a response back from the Developmental Resource Consultant within ten business days, please get in touch with Shannon Merriman, ELCC Supervisor of the Developmental Resource Consultant program, at shannonm@metisnation.org

[I have a question for my Developmental Resource Consultant, and I see them publicly or at an event. Can I ask them about my file?](#)

- Staff will only answer programming questions during regular working hours or when they are available during special events.
 - Staff working during events and camps are responsible for the programming and supervision of children. To ensure the safety of the children at these events, the parent/guardian Developmental Resource Consultant will be unable to answer questions specific to your child's file. Please email them your questions; they will follow up after the event.
- If a parent or guardian encounters a staff member outside of their working hours, the staff member is not obligated to answer the parent or guardian's questions regarding our programs.
- Many staff are also citizens and may attend an event as citizens, not as staff. They are not



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expected to answer questions when they are not working.

- The MNO supports the Disconnecting from Work Policy. POLICY NO. 7.110: DISCONNECTING FROM WORK:
 - Disconnecting from work is defined as not engaging in work-related communications, including emails, telephone calls, video calls, or the sending or reviewing of other messages, to be free from the performance of work.
 - Employees are not expected to engage in work-related communications outside of the employee's regular working hours, including those from clients, colleagues, People Leaders, or community communications.
 - Employees are encouraged to stop performing their job duties and work-related tasks when their regularly scheduled hours end. Working hours are set in an employee's letter of offer upon hire or communicated upon changes to their role. Flexible hours are considered a part of established working hours. This includes working approved alternative hours outside of standard established hours to ensure specific work duties are met.
 - As staff within the organization work to different schedules, all employees may disconnect from work according to their particular work patterns.
 - This Policy applies to all employees (including People Leaders), volunteers, and interns, regardless of position, tenure, and work location.

[I am an MNO staff member and an MNO citizen. Can I access this program for my children? If yes, what steps do I have to take?](#)

- You can access the program if you have children between 0 and 12 years old.
- Please email the DRC inbox at DRCsupport@metisnation.org.
- If you are concerned about privacy, don't hesitate to contact Shannon Merriman, the Developmental Resource Consultant Program's supervisor, at shannonm@metisnation.org.

Service Providers

[My sister, spouse, or close family member is an x service provider. Can I use them for my child?](#)

- Service provider eligibility will be decided on a case-by-case basis using the field's best practices and professional standards.
- Please contact your Developmental Resource Consultant to determine if the service provider's relationship with the child would be a professional conflict of interest.

[How will you determine who the service provider is?](#)

- The Developmental Services and Support Program will be of eligible service providers in your area.
- Service providers not on the list will be approved case-by-case, depending upon the criteria listed in this guide.



Approved Purchase List – 2025/2026

This list is not exhaustive. If an item is not on the list, please contact the child's Developmental Resource Consultant, as they can determine on a case-by-case basis. For example, Uno is an approved game; if a similar counting game is available, the DRC need not seek approval before purchasing.

Books

- *Please sign up for the imagination library for all children's books(if your child is 5 and under)*
- Books that support a developmental skill or a client's need (i.e., grief, new baby, change in family status, etc.)
- Books on emotions
- Guided reader sets

Educational

- Puzzles
- Manipulatives
- Alphabet Bingo
- Sight word games
- Uno (or similar games)
- Match games

Emotional - Self-Regulation

- Items to complement books, i.e., The Worry Box book – accompanied by a wooden box and paints from the dollar store
- Noise reduction headphones
- Light filters
- Visual timers
- First/then boards other similar resources
- Feelings, expressions, and/or emotion-themed games
- Self-regulation supports, i.e., Anger Management box
<https://nationalautismresources.com/anger-management-box/>
- Puppets or dolls for self-regulation, i.e., Edgar the Emotion Puppet
<https://www.scholarschoice.ca/sensory-stimulation/edgar-the-emotion-puppet.html>
- Cause and effect toys
- Mirror (for feeling identification and face recognition)

Gross and Fine Motor - as supported by educator/teacher/assessment recommendation

- Gross motor games set



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- Connetic Magnet blocks
- Play-dough and tools
- Art mats
- Scissors
 - Loop
 - Left-handed
- Stepping stones (small set under \$50)
- Pencil grips
- Arm weights
- Writing boards
- Tweezers
- Tongs
- Scoops
- Yoga ball
- Tumble mat (under \$50)
- Balance beam (under \$50)

Art

Boogie boards

- Art mat
- Chalk
- Watercolors
- Paint
- Crayons



Family/Relationships/Social

- Board games
- Sharing games
- Role-playing/dramatic play items

Sensory & OT – As supported by educator/teacher or OT recommendations

- Sensory balls
- Alternative lighting
- Weighted items (vest, balls, toys)
- Chewables
- Theraputty
- Bouncy bands
- Flex seating
 - Squishy chair
 - Stable seating
 - Wiggle chair feet
 - Yoga ball
 - Wedge seats
- Bubbles
- Sunglasses
- Vibrating toys for input to wake up hands/mouth
- Bouncy bands
- Resistance bands
- Sensory swings
- Wiggle Seats

Fidget toys – as supported by educator/teacher recommendation

- Pop-its
- Busy toys
- Squeeze balls/items

Self-Help

- Mirror for dressing
- Shoe-tying kit
- Visual schedule boards
- Learn to dress dolls