

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Autistic Spectrum Disorder is a range of neuro-behavioural syndromes which have in common:

- impairments in social interaction
- impairments in communication
- restricted and repetitive patterns of behaviour and activity

Research indicates that early diagnosis and intervention lead to improved outcomes.

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Department of Education
Department of Community Services
Department of Health

Early Identification & Intervention Services

for children with
Autistic Spectrum Disorder

EIIS Early Identification & Intervention Services

Early Identification and Intervention Services (EIS)

The Government of Nova Scotia, through the Child and Youth Action Committee (CAYAC), has enhanced services for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and their families. The focus of services is on children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder from 0–6 years.

This model for services was developed by the departments of health, community services, and education, in consultation with parents and service providers. To better serve children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and their families across the province, diagnostic and assessment services are available regionally: eastern, northern, central, and western. These enhanced services will help to reduce the wait lists for diagnosis and increase opportunities for early intervention.

Improved coordination and integration of services will contribute to better outcomes for families and their children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

The EIS model for services includes

- improved access to services for diagnosis and assessment, development of Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP), intervention, and support for transition to school
- a coordinated, collaborative team approach
- diagnostic and assessment services in four regions across Nova Scotia
- additional services in psychology, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy
- increased opportunities for training for clinicians, parents, teacher assistants, early intervention, and day care workers

The four regions are illustrated on the map below:

