

## 1. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

*Child, Family and Community Service Act*, Sections 5 and 93

## 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy and accompanying standards is to provide clarification regarding the criteria and process used to determine eligibility for Family Support Services.

## 3. POLICY

The Ministry of Children and Family Development will provide Family Support Services for eligible children and their families, subject to the Determining Priority for Children's Services Policy.

## 4. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Family Support Services is an umbrella term that describes a range of programs intended to support parents to care for their child or youth with special needs in the home. Family Support Services includes the following programs:

### 4.1 Direct Funded Respite

Provides funding directly to families to purchase the respite services that best meet their needs.

### 4.2 Contracted Respite

Provides contracted services, which may include recruitment, training, and monitoring of respite caregivers with families and the provision of respite services.

### 4.3 Respite Relief

Provides respite services by an approved child care resource in the resource home or in the child's home.

### 4.4 Homemaker/Home Support

Provides home support services including direct care of children and training in household management skills on a short term, on-going, intermittent or as needed basis.

### 4.5 Behavioural Support

Provides consultation, training, and development and monitoring of individualized positive behaviour support plans for children and youth and their families.

### 4.6 Child and Youth Care Worker

Provides a specialized child-care worker who assists the child to learn social and life skills, and/or to support the family to learn parenting/child management skills.

## 4.7 Professional Support

Provides specialized support services by qualified professionals including assessment, training, counselling, planning and other supports to children, families and caregivers.

## 4.8 Parent Support

Provides a range of services to assist parents and/or children to develop skills and access information and community programs, and may include parent support groups, parent skills training, counselling, life skills and organized activities.

## 5. DEFINITIONS

5.1 “Eligible children” means those children who:

1. Are eligible for Autism Programs based on the criteria outlined in the Eligibility for Autism Programs policy, or;
2. Are eligible for the At Home Program, based on the criteria outlined in the Eligibility for At Home Program policy, or;
3. Have a developmental disability, and are:
  - residents of BC, and;
  - under the age of 19

5.2 “Developmental disability” means the DSM-IV diagnosis of “Mental Retardation”. Some children are too young for formal intellectual testing and, based on the informed clinical judgement of a certified school psychologist, registered psychologist, or registered psychological associate, may be diagnosed with “Mental Retardation”.

Note: BC Education uses the term “Intellectual Disability” when referring to the DSM-IV diagnosis of “Mental Retardation”.

5.3 “DSM- IV” means the ‘Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4<sup>th</sup> edition, American Psychiatric Association). This manual is accepted internationally as a primary clinical reference enabling psychologists, psychiatrists and other professionals to identify and describe a range of intellectual, psychological, psychiatric and related conditions using commonly understood and validated terminology.

5.4 “Registered Psychologist or Registered Psychological Associate” means an individual registered with the College of Psychologists of British Columbia and licensed to practice in British Columbia.

5.5 “Certified School Psychologist” means a psychologist with full certification from the British Columbia Association of School Psychologists.

5.6 “ASD” means Autism Spectrum Disorder and includes the following diagnoses:

- Autism
- Asperger’s Syndrome
- Rett Syndrome
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder –Not Otherwise Specified
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder

5.8 “Resident of British Columbia” is defined in accordance with the *Medicare Protection Act* and means a person who:

- (a) is a citizen of Canada or is lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence;
  - (b) makes his or her home in British Columbia, and;
  - (c) is physically present in British Columbia at least 6 months in a calendar year,
- and includes a person who is deemed under the regulations to be a resident, but does not include a tourist or visitor to British Columbia.

## 6. STANDARDS

### 6.1 Information and Support to Families Standard

1	The organization ensures that families have access to a knowledgeable Children and Youth with Special Needs Support Worker (CYSN SW)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CYSN SW is able to assist families to access an assessment from a certified school psychologist, registered psychologist, or registered psychological associate</li> <li>• The CYSN SW is knowledgeable about the range of Family Support Services and is able to assist the family to determine which programs are appropriate for their and their child's/youth's needs</li> <li>• The CYSN SW is knowledgeable about other Ministry of Children and Family Development programs for children and youth with special needs and their families and can assist the family to access appropriate programs</li> <li>• The CYSN SW provides and assists families to complete, as requested, documentation associated with accessing programs and services</li> <li>• The CYSN SW is knowledge about the disability-specific and generic supports and services that are available in the family's community</li> </ul>

## 6.2 Family Support Services Eligibility Standards

1	The organization uses consistent criteria to determine eligibility for Family Support Services
	<p>Determining eligibility for children with ASD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For children and youth who are enrolled in the Autism Funding: Under age 6, Autism Funding: Ages 6-18, or Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention programs, review the child's file to confirm the ASD diagnosis</li> <li>For children and youth who are <b>not</b> enrolled in one of the above programs, confirm eligibility based on the Eligibility for Autism Programs policy</li> </ul> <p>Determining eligibility for children who are eligible for the At Home Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For children and youth who are enrolled in the At Home Program, review the child's file to confirm eligibility for the At Home Program (Medical Benefits and/or Respite Benefits)</li> <li>For children and youth who are <b>not</b> enrolled in the At Home Program, confirm eligibility based on the Eligibility for the At Home Program policy</li> </ul> <p>Determining eligibility for children and youth who have a developmental disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the certified school psychologists, registered psychologist's, or registered psychological associate's assessment to confirm the presence of a developmental disability based on the diagnostic criteria for mental retardation as defined in the DSM IV</li> <li>If the report does not state this clearly, request that the psychologist provide this confirmation in writing</li> <li>When a report provides information that appears confusing or conflicting, further information may be requested from the assessing psychologist</li> <li>If the assessing psychologist is unable to confirm the presence of a developmental disability as defined above, the Children and Youth with Special Needs Support Worker may arrange for a further assessment from another certified school psychologist, registered psychologist, or registered psychological associate.</li> </ul>

# Eligibility for Family Support Services Policy

2	The organization informs the family of, and receives, the required eligibility documents
	<p>Required eligibility documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For children and youth with ASD, review the Eligibility for Autism Programs policy for required documents</li><li>• For children and youth who are eligible for the At Home Program, review the Eligibility for At Home Program policy for required documents</li><li>• For children and youth with a developmental disability, the following documents are required:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An assessment from a certified school psychologist, registered psychologist, or registered psychological associate confirming the presence of a developmental disability based on the diagnostic criteria for mental retardation as defined in the DSM IV</li><li>• Proof that the child or youth is under the age of nineteen (such as a birth certificate).</li><li>• Current BC Care Card (as proof of residency).</li></ul></li></ul>