

	Funding	Services	Wait times
Children's disABILITY Services (CDS):	- Manitoba's primary program for children with disabilities. - Provides services and some financial supports based on assessed need (not income-tested) - For families of children under 18 with developmental, physical disabilities, or autism.	- May include: - case management - respite care - behavioural services - therapy referrals (OT, SLP, PT) - autism services (including ABA) - assistive equipment - transportation supports - summer programming - A family service worker helps coordinate supports and create a plan with your family. - Early Intervention Services for children under 6 are available as well.	- Families typically wait 12 to 14 months for diagnostic assessments. - There will be an additional wait of up to two years to be assigned a case manager and access direct family supports.
Autism Programs:	Provincially funded autism early intervention for preschool-aged children diagnosed with autism and eligible for CDS.	- Intensive, individualized therapy (often ABA-based). - Are often focused on communication, daily living skills, and school readiness. - May offer up to ~20 hours/week depending on location and needs. - Regionally based providers and services.	Diagnostic Assessments: - The wait list for a public autism assessment at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children (the primary provider for toddlers and preschoolers) exceeds 1,600 children, with an average wait time of 26 months. Therapy & Early Intervention: - Wait times for public programs, including Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) therapy and services through St.Amant (one of the main providers in Manitoba), typically range from 6 to 18 months. Private System: - Engaging a private child psychologist or clinical specialist can significantly reduce wait times to about 6 to 12 months - This requires out-of-pocket expenses or private health insurance.

	Funding	Services	Wait times
Children's Therapy Network of Manitoba (CTNM):	- Publicly funded therapy services accessed through referral or CDS. - Not direct funding to families.	- Occupational therapy - Physiotherapy - Speech-language therapy - Audiology - Often delivered in community clinics, schools, or homes.	Varies by service needed, urgency, and region.

To Do Before You Move

- Ensure you have a letter/official documentation of any diagnosis your child has from a qualified professional, and it must be in English or French.
- Request documentation like your medical records, any completed assessments, or diagnostic reports from professionals you have worked with, and physicians who oversee your child's care.
- Research MCFD offices, therapy providers, and early intervention programs in your destination region.

To Do After You Move

Week 1

- Apply for a **Manitoba Health Card** as soon as possible. Coverage typically begins on the first day of the third month after arrival, so there may be up to a 3-month waiting period. Keep your previous provincial coverage or arrange private insurance during the waiting period if possible.

First Month

- Apply for **Children's disABILITY Services** (CDS) as early as possible (waitlists and intake times can vary). Submit your child's diagnostic documentation with your application.
- Ask about referrals to:
 - Early intervention programs
 - Autism services
 - Therapy services
- Get on waitlists for respite, therapy, and specialized supports.
- Find a new family doctor or pediatrician.

First Three Months

- Work with your assigned Family Service Worker (if approved) to build a support plan.
- Follow up on therapy referrals and program waitlists.
- Connect with local disability organizations (e.g., Autism Manitoba) for community support and resources.