

If your child is 5 years or older or is turning 5 and on the IBI waitlist

- You will have the option of:
 - Receiving continuous service based on your child's individual needs through direct funding; **OR**
 - If preferred, immediate and continuous access to ABA services during the transition period
- Families will continue to receive this choice until a spot in the new program becomes available.
- Children will be supported as they transition to school.

If your child is 5 years or older and is receiving IBI services

- Service will continue without interruption. Based on your child's clinical assessment, a plan to gradually transition your child to the new program will be developed.
- The *Connections for Students* program will be available to those children transitioning to school.

If your child is 5 or older and receiving ABA services

- Your child will continue with their current ABA service. Families can continue to re-apply for ABA services as long as they need to.

If your child is on the ABA waitlist

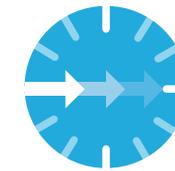
- Your child will receive ABA services when a space becomes available. Spaces will be made available more quickly due to the new Ontario Autism Program

If your child is under 5 years and is receiving IBI services

- Services will continue without interruption. When your child turns 5 years old, a plan will be developed to gradually transition your child to the new program.

If your child is under 5 and on the IBI waitlist

- Your child will remain on the IBI waitlist. If your child turns 5 during the transition period, you will be eligible for direct funding of \$8,000 to purchase services, followed by additional direct funding payments or immediate and continuous access to ABA services.



**Accelerated
Transition to
New Ontario
Autism
Program
reduced from
two years
to one**

**NEW ONTARIO
AUTISM PROGRAM
BEGINS IN 2017**

New Ontario Autism program is for all children and youth with autism.

The new program will provide all children, regardless of age, with more flexible services at a level of intensity that meets each child's individual needs, significantly reduce wait times for therapy, deliver diagnosis earlier in a child's development and increase the number of treatment spaces available to serve more children.

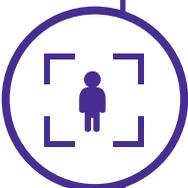
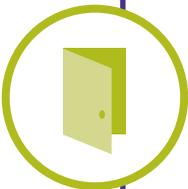
There will be **one point of entry** into the Ontario Autism Program.

In the new program, **all children, including those 5 and older** will be assessed upon entry and receive supports at the level of intensity they need based on their individual needs.

The amount of service that each child receives will not be pre-set. The goal is to **maximize the amount of service available** for children, based on their individual needs as determined by a clinician.

Enhanced options for direct funding will be made available.

An advisory committee of parents, advocates, service providers and experts will continue to provide advice to the government on the design and implementation of the Ontario Autism Program.



Do you have questions about other programs and services available to your child?
Visit [Ontario.ca/autism](https://www.ontario.ca/autism) for more information and call 1-888-284-8340 to find a ministry office near you.

**Ministry of Children
and Youth Services**

Minister's Office

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June 30, 2016

Dear Parent:

It is an honour and a privilege to be writing to you as the newly appointed Minister of Children and Youth Services. I am excited to have been entrusted with the responsibility of serving the children, youth and families of Ontario.

As both the Minister and as a local MPP, I've been speaking with parents, advocates and experts, and what's clear is that families of children with autism face unique and often difficult challenges. That's why we are moving forward with the new Ontario Autism Program. This program will deliver individualized autism treatment that provides the intensity and flexibility of service to meet the individual needs of each child, regardless of his or her age.

We have heard from the autism community that as a government, we needed to do better for our kids. In response, we have developed a plan that will better support all children with autism, while providing additional supports to those families most affected by the transition to the new program.

1. We are cutting the implementation time in half. The implementation of the new Ontario Autism Program will now begin in June 2017.
2. We are providing additional direct funding available to families with children over five who are transitioning from the IBI waitlist and were originally offered \$8,000 to purchase supports. Successive payments will be provided in \$10,000 installments to purchase services based on their child's needs. This amount will be sufficient to support even the most intensive level of therapy for approximately 10 weeks. Alternatively, families can also choose to have their child receive immediate and continuous ABA services. Families will be eligible to receive continuous direct funding supports or ABA service until their child is able to enter the new program seamlessly.
3. We will provide families with greater access to information and one-on-one supports. We've set up a toll-free number at 1-888-284-8340 that families can call for general information and to be connected with their nearest ministry regional office cost-free and quickly.
4. We are delivering improved access to diagnostic assessments and services. This will help families get an autism diagnosis earlier so that their children can get the treatment they need sooner.

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5. We are working with the Ministry of Education to strengthen in-school supports, including the Connections Program, to help students transition into, and continue in, full-time school.

My ministry has established a new advisory committee of parents, stakeholders and experts to provide advice on the design and implementation of the new program. We will be engaging broadly with families and caregivers throughout this process to implement a program that is responsive to children's varying needs and delivered in a way that is helpful to families.

These enhancements will support children and youth with autism and their families. I am confident that these changes will make things easier and smoother for you as the new Ontario Autism Program is introduced.

If you would like additional information about the transition to the new program, please visit ontario.ca/autism or call 1-888-284-8340.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Coteau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Coteau
Minister