



Ref: 134171

August 30, 2004

Dear Parent:

RE: Autism Funding Program Changes

I am writing to inform you of some changes that will help streamline the autism programs. These changes, effective October 2004, will simplify the programs and make the information about requirements and procedures easier to understand. Some program changes will also be made to improve accountability for direct funding to families.

The names of the direct funding programs will be changed. The Interim Early Intensive Intervention (IEII) Program will become Autism Funding: Under Age 6. The new name for the Extended Autism Intervention (EAI) Program will be Autism Funding: Ages 6 through 18.

Also, beginning October 2004, a toll-free telephone information line will be available for you to contact the ministry if you have questions about the autism programs.

We are also pleased to introduce a new funding option called the Invoice Payment option which will be available to all families that are eligible for Autism Funding: Under Age 6 and Autism Funding: Ages 6 through 18. You will still be eligible for the same amount of funding and will still be able to select your own service providers. The ministry will hold your funds and will make all of the payments directly to the service providers. This means that you will not have to hire and pay your own service providers, nor will you have to account for the money you have received. In summary, if you select the Invoice Payment option, you will get all the benefits of intervention funding, including all the choice and flexibility that you currently have, but you will not be required to do much of the paper work that is currently required.

We will change the reporting process for families who choose to continue to receive direct funding. These changes will come into effect when your current funding agreement expires. If you receive Autism Funding: Under Age 6, we will send you monthly payments. You will be required to send monthly summaries of all of your expenses with original receipts to the finance department of the ministry. If you receive Autism Funding: Ages 6 through 18, we will send you quarterly payments and you will be required to send quarterly summaries of all of your expenses with original receipts to the finance department of the ministry.

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**Ministry of Children and  
Family Development**

Community Living Services Children  
with Special Needs and Early  
Childhood Development Service  
Transformation Division

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 9719 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9S5  
Telephone: 250 387-7762  
Facsimile: 250 356-0399  
Web: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcf>

**Location Address:**  
2 - 777 Broughton St  
Victoria BC

All of our program materials are being rewritten so that they are easier to understand. This includes documentation such as the eligible expense policy. We are also producing a brochure that will give you a basic overview of the autism programs. All of these materials will be available on the ministry Web site in a more user-friendly and accessible format.

Finally, beginning October 1, 2004, families receiving Autism Funding: Under Age 6, through either the direct funding or the Invoice Payment option, will be able to spend up to 20 percent of their funding towards travel, training and supplies. An updated Eligible Expense Policy will be mailed to you before October 1, 2004.

You may want to make an appointment with your social worker in September or before your current funding agreement expires to discuss these changes in more detail and how they may affect you. Please also refer to the ministry Web site over the next few months for more detailed information on program changes at: [www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism).

We look forward to continuing to support you as you pursue the most appropriate treatment and intervention for your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Keller', written in a cursive style.

Cameron Keller  
Director  
Autism Initiatives & Responsible for Willow Clinic