
Supporting Special Needs Families:

Children from Birth to Six Years



Compiled by the Special Needs Working Group of the Promoting
Parenting Capacity Action Group as part of the Early Years Council.

Other sources of information for special needs families within London
and Middlesex are available.

On-line sources include:

www.familyinfo.ca

www.info.london.on.ca

www.parentguide.ca

Every attempt was made to include the most current and accurate
information at the time of printing. Information provided by individual
agencies is subject to change. Inclusion of an available service does not
imply endorsement. Exclusion of a service does not mean a lack of
endorsement.

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Parenting and Special Needs Families Children from Birth to Six Years

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Assessment, Treatment and/or Support

All Kids Belong
(Merrymount Children's Centre)
1064 Colborne St., London N6A 4B3

434-8247 ext. 270

- provides a variety of assessment screens and referrals
- resource consultants provide strategies and resources to early childhood educators as required
- classroom support in early childhood programs
- assists families with school transitions

Notes: _____

Assessment, Treatment and/or Support

Autism Program – South West Region
Thames Valley Children's Centre,
779 Baseline Road E, London, N6C 5Y6

685-8708

- Intensive behavioural intervention for young children with autism.
Contact Jennifer for more information.
- Information about this program found on website for Thames Valley Children's Centre www.tvcc.on.ca. From homepage, go to Our Services, then Autism Services
- for general information call 685-8694

Notes: _____

Assessment, Treatment and/or Support

Community Care Access Centre of London & Middlesex 473-2222
356 Oxford Street West, London, N6H 1T3 **1-800-811-5146**

- provides eligibility assessments/access to in-home health care and long term care facilities
- provides information and referral to community health and support services
- services are authorized and coordinated by CCAC case managers and may be provided at home, school, work or residential facility through contracted agencies
- Middlesex office: 395 Carrie Street, Suite 311,
Strathroy N7G 3C9 **245-3233**
- www.ccacm.on.ca **1-800-265-6235**

Notes: _____

Assessment, Treatment and/or Support

CPRI (Child and Parent Resource Institute)
600 Sanatorium Road, London, N6H 3W7

858-2774

- provides a range of highly specialized interdisciplinary consultation, treatment, residential and non-residential, research and education to children and youth, age 0-18 years, with complex mental health or developmental challenges and their families so these children and youth can reach their full potential
- serves children and youth, age 0-18 years, with complex mental health or developmental challenges and their families
- **Home Visiting Programs for Infants (ext. 2288)** – parent education and support for families of infants and children, birth to 5 years, who are at risk for or have developmental or physical disabilities
- no referral required

Notes: _____

Assessment, Treatment and/or Support

Developmental Resources for Infants

685-8710

Thames Valley Children's Centre,
779 Baseline Road E, London, N6C 5Y6

- information, referral and advice plus intake and service coordination for children 2 years and under with developmental concerns
- partnership of CPRI, Home Visiting Program for Infants, Thames Valley Children's Centre, CHWO (Children's Hospital of Western Ontario) and the Developmental Follow-up Clinic of St. Joseph's Health Care
- no referral needed for initial meeting

Notes: _____

Assessment, Treatment and/or Support

La Ribambelle

472-2334

345 Ridgewood Crescent N., London N6J 3G8

- outreach in the community for French families
- provides a variety of assessment screens and referrals
- resource consultant provides strategies and resources to early childhood educators as required
- classroom support in early childhood programs
- assists families with school transitions

Notes: _____

Assessment, Treatment and/or Support

Madame Vanier Children's Services
871 Trafalgar Street, London, N5Z 1E6

433-0334

- children's mental health centre offering community-based assessment, counselling and treatment for children and families to address issues related to emotional development, attachment, behaviour management and family functioning
- Crisis/intake team (telephone intake and brief crisis intervention service)
- Early Years team (assessment and individualized treatment plans developed in conjunction with the family which may include parent-child relationship building, parenting skills, family therapy, therapeutic kindergarten program; services may be provided at Vanier, in the home, or in the community)
- The Incredible Years parenting group (for Vanier clients)
- Middlesex team (satellite clinic located at Kenwick Mall in Strathroy)
- www.vanier.com

Notes: _____

Assessment, Treatment and/or Support

Thames Valley Children's Centre
779 Baseline Road East, London, N6C 5Y6

685-8680

- rehabilitation for children with physical disabilities or speech and language disorders
- medical referral required
- referrals for preschoolers with communication disorders are handled through tykeTALK (663-0273)
- programs for parents of children with communication needs
- www.tvcc.on.ca

Notes: _____

Assessment, Treatment and/or Support

TykeTALK (Thames Valley Preschool Speech & Language Program)
50 King Street, London N6A 5L7 663-0273 (information line)
663-5317 ext. 2224 (intake & referral)
1-877-818-8255
FAX: 963-0305

- provides prevention, early identification/assessment and treatment for children from birth to school entry who are at risk for or have problems with speech and language development
- services are provided by Speech Language Pathologists and Assistants at various locations throughout the Thames Valley region
- services include parent training programs, individual and group therapy
- services are available in French; interpreters can be arranged for other languages
- no fee for service; program funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- **www.tyketalk.com**

Notes: _____

Parent Relief/Respite

Community Living London
190 Adelaide Street S., London, N5Z 3L

686-3000
FAX: 686-5490

- weekend relief, Friday to Sunday, for a child under 18 years old with an intellectual disability who lives with a caregiver.
- extended relief is for persons of any age with an intellectual disability who live with a parent or guardian. Care is provided in a home-like setting for one week or more.
- application by contacting the Supervisor for Relief Services, ext. 373
- fee
- www.cl.on.ca

Notes: _____

Parent Relief/Respite

London Village, Salvation Army

1340 Dundas Street, London, N5W 3B6

455-4810

Sherry Rowland ext. 327

- in-centre programs offer weekend, holiday and/or summer vacation care for children with developmental disabilities
- short term respite care for children and adults
- fee of \$10.00/day for children less than 18 years
- criteria – intellectual disability, physical disability; mild medical
- book in 6 month blocks and have a waiting list

Notes: _____

Parent Relief/Respite

Parents of Technological Dependent Children

473-1598

Kids Country Club, 87 Chestnut Hill, London, N6K 4J7

- weekend care with extended times during the summer and holidays for medically fragile/ technologically dependent children
- www.kccrespite@on.aibn.com

Notes: _____

Parent Relief/Respite

Victorian Order of Nurses, Middlesex-Elgin Branch **657-4570**
Family Supports Program
100-1151 Florence Street, London, N5W 2M7

- Friends and Neighbours Host Family Respite (host respite to children and adults with a developmental disability in London and Middlesex, nominal fee)
- Special Services At Home (respite support and nursing respite to families with a child or adult living at home with a developmental disability or a child with a physical disability, flexible hours-day and evening)
- www.von.ca

Notes: _____

Residential Placement

Community Services Co-ordination Network

**171 Queens Avenue, Suite 750,
London, N6A 5J7**

438-4783

Toll Free # 1-877-480-2726

- coordinates access to various services and supports for children and adolescents with complex needs that may require a response from more than one service provider
- participation in the CSCN process is required for children and adolescents with a developmental disability who are pursuing accommodation supports, seeking admission to a residential based treatment program, or to the WrapAround process
- does not provide direct service but rather links individuals and families to appropriate services and supports in their community
- referrals preferred, but will provide information on request
- www.cscn.on.ca

Notes: _____

Residential Placement

CPRI, Homeshare Program
600 Sanatorium Road, London, N6H 3W7

471-0644
(Monica)

- specialized placement/treatment program in which children who are developmentally disabled, medically fragile/technologically dependent and/or dually diagnosed, are placed with families on a full-time and long-term basis in London and surrounding counties
- the program is voluntary; natural families remain legal guardians

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

Funding Guide for Parents Seeking Equipment and Special Needs Funding

- This guide was developed by Thames Valley Children's Centre to assist parents in their search for funding for equipment and other special needs of their child
- For more information about the guide, or to request a copy, e-mail fundingadvice@tvcc.on.ca, or call **685-8680** and ask to speak with a Service Coordinator
- Information about the guide is also available on the website www.tvcc.on.ca under Family Resources/Information on/Funding

Funding Advice Consultation Sessions

- Sessions are provided by the Service Coordinators at Thames Valley Children's Centre
- Purpose of the sessions is to provide funding information and to help with practical matters such as completing application forms
- Phone consultations or in-person sessions can be arranged
- For more information about these sessions, check the website www.tvcc.on.ca under Family Resources/Information on/Funding
- To inquire about the dates and times of sessions, e-mail fundingadvice@tvcc.on.ca or call **685-8680** and ask to speak with a Service Coordinator

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

City of London,
Department of Community Services
151 Dundas Street, 4th floor, **661-4834 (Child Care Subsidy)**
London, N6A 5R7 **661-5550 (Family Support Program)**

- child care subsidy offers financial support for children with special needs from birth – 18 years
- www.london.ca

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

County of Middlesex, Social Services
399 Ridout Street, London, N6A 2P1

434-7321

- child care subsidy
- www.county.middlesex.on.ca

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

Easter Seal Society (London Office)

332 Wellington Road, Unit 2,
London, N6C 4P6

432-9669

1-866-630-3336 (financial assistance)

- financial assistance to help families purchase equipment needed for mobility and/or communication for children, youth and young adults with physical disabilities
- www.easterseals.org

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

Jennifer Ashleigh Foundation
R. R. 1, Uxbridge, ON, L9L 1R1

1-905-852-1799

- assists seriously ill children and their families with special treatment needs, medical expenses and financial assistance
- foundation requests that all other funding options are investigated before making a request of them

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

Mocha Shriners

672-1391

468 Colborne Street, London, N6B 2T3

- accepts written requests (addressed to the president) for individualized funding for specialized equipment for children up to age 18
- www.mochashriners.org

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

Municipal Property Assessment Corp.,

Regional Assessment Office 23

1-866-296-6722

Superstore Mall, 4380 Wellington Road,

London N6E 3A2

Disabled and Seniors in the Community Program

- property tax exemption for home renovation to accommodate individuals with physical or mental disabilities that would otherwise require institutional placement

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada

London and Region Chapter

1-800-567-2873 ext. 172

(chapter president Judy Germond)

- provides basic medical equipment on loan
- some funding assistance may be available for purchasing new equipment

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services **438-5111**
(Southwest Regional Office)
217 York Street, Suite 203, London, N6A 5R1

- **Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities** – assists with the extra costs of significant special needs for children with a disability
- the child must be under 18 years and live at home with a parent or legal guardian
- eligibility and level of assistance is based on family income
- **Special Services at Home** – support to families caring for children with a physical or developmental disability to help meet the costs related to personal development and growth and/or family relief and support
- www.css.gov.on.ca

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

**Ontario Ministry of Finance,
London Regional Tax Office**

433-3901

130 Dufferin Ave. Suite 400, London, N6A 6G8

- administers tax credits and exemptions for persons with disabilities such as the Ontario Motor Vehicle Tax Rebate, the Ontario Retail Sales Tax Exemption, Ontario Disability Tax Credit (T2201), and the Child Disability Benefit

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care 1-800-268-6021
Assistive Devices & Home Oxygen Program TTY: 1-800-387-5559
5700 Yonge St. 7th floor, North York, M2M 4K5

- items must be authorized by a qualified health professional and application made before purchase
- pays percentage or fixed amount
- **Assistive Devices Program** – assists with the cost of a range of devices and supplies for persons with physical disabilities of six months or longer
- specific eligibility criteria for each device category
- **Home Oxygen Program 1-800-268-1154:** assists with the cost of oxygen and equipment for individuals requiring long-term oxygen therapy
- www.health.gov.on.ca

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

Sean Ryan Children's Fund

(905) 271-9232 (h)

- provides funds to offset the costs of respite care provided by professional nursing assistance in the home (funding goes directly to nursing agencies)
- eligible families are those caring for chronically ill or disabled children and youth, birth to 18 years of age, and who are living at home
- application form completed by referring professional

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

Tetra Society of North America
London Chapter

1-877-688-8762

Contact: Ben Roth

Email: ben@tetrasociety.org

- recruits volunteer engineers and technicians to create or adapt existing assistive devices for people with disabilities
- request for assistance can be submitted online
- projects are developed in such categories as communication aids, eating/drinking aids, mobility aids, household aids, tools for tykes
- www.tetrasociety.org

Notes: _____

Financial Assistance and Assistive Devices

War Amputations of Canada

CHAMP Program

1-800-267-4023

2827 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, K1V 0C4

- for children from birth to 18 years who are born missing 1 or more limbs or who lose limbs due to injury or medical cause
- www.waramps.ca

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

**Autism Society Ontario
(London & District)**

(Patricia Gallin) **685-8702**

Thames Valley Children's Centre
779 Baseline Road East, London, N6C 5Y6

- information and support about autism and pervasive developmental disorders
- membership fee
- www.autismsocietyontario.info

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

Christian Horizons (South District Office) **686-4800**
c/o David Petkau 339 Consortium Dr. London, N6E 2S8

- local support group for parents of children with developmental disabilities
- provincially operates group homes and summer camps with a Christian element
- www.christian-horizons.org

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

Community Living London
190 Adelaide St. S., London, N5Z 3L1

686-3000
FAX: 686-5490

- full range of services for individuals with developmental disabilities include family support services, parent relief, leisure, integration into camps, self-advocate group, supported employment, day activities, planning supports
- fee for some programs
- www.cl.on.ca

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

Easter Seal Society (Southwestern Ontario Region) **432-9669**
332 Wellington R. Unit 2, London, N6C 4P6 **1-888-278-7797**
FAX: 432-7679

- dedicated to helping children, youth and young adults with physical disabilities reach their highest level of independence
- parent network provides assistance to families
- access to information & resources
- send kids to summer camp
- invest in research & prevention programs
- www.easterseals.org

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

Family Service Thames Valley
125 Woodward Avenue, London, N6H 2H1

433-0183

- supports include crisis intervention and long-term planning for families of children with developmental disabilities
- assists families to access funding services and natural supports within the community
- Family Support Worker (specific to Middlesex County) is available for children until 18 years of age. Contact: Lisa Tennant, ext. 7130
- www.familyservicethamesvalley.com

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community

London contact: Angie Kehoe

471-9289 (h)

672-2121 (w)

- advocacy and information network for children with disabilities and their families
- advises local school boards
- membership fee
- www.integration-inclusion.com

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

London Down Syndrome Association

Randy Bilton 644-1867

- parent to parent support that includes informal monthly meetings and social events
- information, newsletter
- **www.ldsa.ca**

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

Merrymount Children's Centre
1064 Colborne St., London, N6A 4B3

434-6848

- range of family services and child care programs,
- programs to support families and children during crisis or transition
- Overnight Care Program is a temporary service to meet children's needs during family instability
- **All Kids Belong (434-8247, ext. 270):** assists families with children 12 years and under who require extra supports to participate in community child care programs
- **Mothering and Depression:** 10 session educational group for mothers who have had one or more depressions
- **When Your Child has ADHD (434-6848, ext. 278):** a parenting program that provides strategies and information for parents of children with ADHD
- **www.merrymount.on.ca**

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

Parent Helpline

1-888-603-9100

- national bilingual phone service providing confidential support, information and referrals to parents of children from birth to 19 years
- www.parenthelpline.ca

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

Parents of Technologically Dependent Children **473-1598**
Kids Country Club **1-877-550-5613**
87 Chestnut Hill, London, N6K 4V7

- support ,education and advocacy for families with medically fragile/technologically dependent children
- respite care
- no referral required
- www.ptdc.on.ca

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

Telehealth Ontario

1-866-797-0000

(TTY) 1-866-797-0007

- free confidential access to registered nurses to help individual decision-making about appropriate options for care

Notes: _____

Advocacy and Other Supports

War Amputations of Canada
1 Maybrook Dr. Scarborough, M1V 5K9

1-800-250-3030

- service bureau provides fund assistance for artificial limbs and counselling and purchases computer technology for amputees
- family counselling and information on assistive devices
- assistance in accessing community services
- referral not required
- **www.waramps.ca**

Notes: _____

Leisure and Recreation

Boys' & Girls' Club of London
184 Horton St., London, N6B 1K8
"Special Buddies"

434-9114

- try to provide a one-to-one volunteer buddy to assist physically or developmentally challenged child to participate in club programs and camps
- referral not required
- The Boys' and Girls' Club also offers programs for March Break, Christmas holidays and Professional Development days that are inclusive of children with disabilities.
- www.bgclondon.ca

Notes: _____

Leisure and Recreation

City of London

661-2500

Recreation and Community Programs

151 Dundas Street 3rd floor, London, N6A 5R7

- Integration Services – participants of city recreational programs are encouraged to bring their own volunteer support at no extra fee for the volunteer
- check the Spectrum: Recreation Activity Catalogue for current programming
- www.london.ca

Notes: _____

Leisure and Recreation

Community Living London, Teach and Play Program 438-0770

- toy lending library for children between the ages of 2 and 15 years of age with disabilities located at Boys' and Girls' Club of London, 184 Horton Street
- hours of operation: Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- contact Teach and Play Support Worker at 438-0770
- www.cl.on.ca

Notes: _____

Leisure and Recreation

Sari Therapeutic Riding

666-1123

12659 Medway Road RR#1, Arva, N0M 1C0

- provides horseback riding instruction in a supervised facility to children 4 years and over with an identified special need (physical, cognitive, social, psychological)
- toddler program, integrated summer camp program (children 6- 16 years) and driving program (carts) are also available
- physician referral required
- fee
- www.sari.ca

Notes: _____

Vision, Hearing and Speech & Language

Canadian Hearing Society (London Branch)
181 Wellington Street, London, N6B 2K9

667-3325
TTY: 667-3323

- American sign language classes
- hearing help classes
- other supports
- fee for some services
- www.chs.ca

Notes: _____

Vision, Hearing and Speech & Language

Canadian National Institute for the Blind
(Southwest District Office)
749 Baseline Road E., London, N6C 2R6

685-8420
1-800-265-4127

- rehabilitation services
- Children's Worker
- transcription service
- helps with the selection, use and purchase of aids and devices
- products for sale
- referral: most optometrists/ophthalmologists
- **www.cnib.ca**

Notes: _____

Vision, Hearing and Speech & Language

Infant Hearing Program

50 King Street, London, N6A 5L7

663-5317 ext. 2224

- conducts hearing screening for all newborn infants in the hospital or in the community
- provides follow-up supports and services for all infants identified with permanent hearing loss including family support, audiology and communication development

Notes: _____

Vision, Hearing and Speech & Language

Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders

c/o Alison Morse

13 Segal Drive, Tillsonburg N4G 4P4

(519) 842-9506

(fax) (519) 842-3228

- provides information, education and support to families of children with communication disorders
- membership is open to families, caregivers, professionals and other individuals with an interest in and concern about communication disorders
- annual membership fee \$25.00; membership form available on website
- **www.oafccd.com**

Notes: _____

Vision, Hearing and Speech & Language

Robarts School for the Deaf
1090 Highbury Ave, London, N5Y 4V9

453-4400
TTY: 453-4400

- education resource centre offering home visiting services to families with children birth to 5 years
- preschool on campus program for children 2 to 5 years
- transportation available within London for preschool
- referrals: resource consultants
- www.robartsschool.ca

Notes: _____

Vision, Hearing and Speech & Language

TykeTALK (Thames Valley Preschool Speech & Language Program)

50 King Street, London N6A 5L7 663-0273 (information line)

663-5317 ext. 2224 (intake & referral)

1-877-818-8255

FAX: 963-0305

- provides prevention, early identification/assessment and treatment for children from birth to school entry who are at risk for or have problems with speech and language development
- services are provided by Speech Language Pathologists and Assistants at various locations throughout the Thames Valley region
- services include parent training programs, individual and group therapy
- services are available in French; interpreters can be arranged for other languages
- no fee for service; program funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- **www.tyketalk.com**

Notes: _____

Vision, Hearing and Speech & Language

Views for the Visually Impaired (London Chapter) **439-4922 (h)**
London contact: Pennie Jevnikar

- supports parents of the visually impaired in their role as child's primary educator and resource

Notes: _____

Vision, Hearing and Speech & Language

Voice for Hearing Impaired Children
London Chapter: Michele Barbeau
E-mail: michele.barbeau@sympatico.ca

858-0991 (h)

- advocacy, education and parent support
- promotes an oral language approach to communication training
- www.voicefordeafkids.com

Notes: _____

Learning Disabilities

Learning Disabilities Association of London Region **438-6213**
171 Queens Avenue, Suite 305, London, N6A 5J7

- services include parent support groups, resource centre, and volunteer tutoring for students aged 5-18 years
- membership fee and fee for some programs
- www.ldalr.on.ca

Notes: _____

Learning Disabilities

London Learning Clinic

438-1568

Lorne Ave Public School,
723 Lorne Ave, Lower Level, London, N5W 3K7

- medical clinic providing assessment and treatment of children with learning disorders
- advice and resource specific recommendations provided to parents and staff of local schools
- referral from family doctor required

Notes: _____

Learning Disabilities

Madame Vanier Children's Services
871 Trafalgar St., London, N5Z 1E6

433-3103

- assessment, counselling and treatment for emotionally disturbed children with or without learning disabilities
- Middlesex team
- **Crisis intake direct line: 433-0334**
- **www.vanier.com**

Notes: _____

Other Useful Contact Information

Provincial web portal for all children's services: www.childrensinfo.ca

Child and Family Service Advocacy (Advocacy Office) 1-800-263-2841
(TTY) 416-325-2648

Children's Services INFO Line 1-866-821-7770
(TTY) 1-800-387-5559

Ontario Government Information and Referrals 1-800-267-8097

Members of Provincial Parliament

Elgin Middlesex London: Steve Peters
Constituency Office: 542 Talbot St., St. Thomas N5P 1C4 326-7600

Lambton Kent Middlesex: Maria Van Bommel
Constituency Office: 71 C Front St. W., Strathroy N7G 1X6 245-8696

London Fanshawe: Khalil Ramal
Constituency Office: 16-771 Southdale Road E., London N6E 2C6 668-1104

London North Centre: Deborah Matthews
Constituency Office: 805 Richmond St., London N6A 3H6 432-7339

London West: Christopher Bentley
Constituency Office: Unit 8-11 Baseline Road E., London N6C 5Z8 657-3120

Perth Middlesex: John Wilkinson
Constituency Office: 55 Lorne Ave. E., Stratford, N5A 6S4 272-0660

Ombudsman Ontario 1-800-263-1830 (English)
1-800-387-2620 (Francais)
(TTY) 1-866-411-4211

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