



You are your child's greatest advocate

This brochure has been compiled from comments and questions asked by parents of children who have received early intervention services from Cause and Effect Foundation over the years.

We are grateful for their insights and hope that some of their experience on this journey will help you gather the necessary information in finding the right program for your child and family.

Never be shy about asking questions. You are your child's greatest advocate!



For more information about
Cause and Effect Foundation, please call

403-523-0150

or visit our website

www.causeandeffectfoundation.com



choices

Early Intervention: Where do I start?

A guide to help parents choose the “right fit” for their child’s early intervention program.



Before you begin:

Key Terms of Early Intervention

Program Unit Funding (PUF): A program through Alberta Education to support the educational needs of children with a severe developmental disability or delay. Children who are at least 2.5 years and less than 6 years by September 1 are eligible if they meet the criteria for a maximum of three years.

Community-based program: Early Intervention Programs that offer support services within your child's community preschool, neighbourhood, daycare and/or home.

Centre-based program: Early Intervention Programs that provide support services for all children within a centralized location.

Individual Program Plan (IPP): The document that captures your child's areas of strength and areas of need, including their program goals, strategies, and progress.

Therapy Team: A child in a PUF program will have access to one or more of the following therapists, depending on their individual needs: Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, and Behaviour Strategist. Every child's team will involve a Special Education Teacher due to the educational nature of the PUF program.



Ask questions

Getting to know your OPTIONS

Different agencies carry out early intervention in different ways. The following questions, developed by parents who have already walked a similar path, are designed to help you determine which agency is the best fit for your child and family.



PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS

- Are you Community-based or Centre-based?
- How many hours per week will my child be involved with your program?
- Is preschool a part of your program? Can we choose a local preschool? Who pays for the preschool fees?
- Will my child have typical peers to model from?
- Does your agency offer transportation to preschool or programming? If so, what are the costs?
- Which therapists will my child have access to?
- Will my child be seen by a therapist individually, or will they be clustered with other children for therapy?
- Are your therapists pediatric-trained?
- Will my child have a one-on-one Assistant, or be grouped with other children?
- What does a typical week look like?
- Is your agency able to offer FSCD services as well?
- How will your agency assist in transitioning my child into Kindergarten or elementary school?
- What makes your agency unique from others?

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

- What is expected of me as a parent with your program?
- As a parent, do I get the opportunity to meet with the therapist(s) working with my child?
- How often am I able to meet with the therapists?
- Do I have the opportunity to give input into my child's IPP?
- I work full time and my child is in daycare. Can your agency provide services to my child in this situation?