



## WHAT IS THE TORONTO PRESCHOOL AUTISM SERVICE (TPAS)?

The Toronto Preschool Autism Service helps children with autism develop and improve basic skills through a highly structured learning program called intensive behavioural intervention or IBI.

### WHAT DOES TPAS OFFER?

TPAS provides an IBI program customized to meet the learning needs of each child. Highly trained staff deliver IBI in one-on-one or small group settings, either in the home or in a TPAS classroom. Parent education and training is an important feature of TPAS and is provided through individual and group coaching and in small group sessions. Transition planning for children moving from IBI programming to school and community agencies is another key element of the program.

### WHO MAY APPLY FOR TPAS?

Parents with children:

- under the age of six;
- living in Toronto; and,
- who have a diagnosis of autism, sometimes called Autism Spectrum Disorder or Pervasive Development Disorder. Only children assessed on the severe end of the autism spectrum are eligible for TPAS.

### WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a Pervasive Development Disorder (PDD), one of a group of disorders that appears during the first three years of life. Most children with autism find relating to others difficult. Many do not speak and avoid making eye contact. Often they make the same action, such as hand flapping or rocking, over and over again. Expressions of autism vary, and every child is affected differently. The range of symptoms and behaviours, from severe to mild, is called the autism spectrum.

## WHAT IS INTENSIVE BEHAVIOURAL INTERVENTION (IBI)?

TPAS uses the scientifically proven IBI method. IBI teaches basic skills by breaking them down into small steps. Most often, instructors work with one child at a time. IBI requires at least 20 hours of therapy per week. IBI includes frequent, direct measurement of the child's performance and progress with regular updates to the child's program.

### WHO PAYS FOR TPAS?

TPAS is funded by the Government of Ontario and is offered at no cost through the five TPAS partner agencies.

Some families may choose instead to go to an approved, private provider of IBI services (the Direct Funding Option). Typically, there are significant additional costs to families who choose the Direct Funding Option.

Surrey Place Centre makes all TPAS eligibility decisions and manages the Direct Funding Option.

### HOW DO I GET A DIAGNOSIS FOR MY CHILD?

A physician, pediatrician (doctor) or a registered psychologist can diagnose autism. TPAS can provide the names of community organizations who provide this service at no cost or names of private registered psychologists who charge a fee to make a diagnosis.

### IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Only children on the severe end of the autism spectrum are eligible for TPAS. With a confirmed diagnosis, a child will be registered on the waiting list for service. A TPAS psychologist will then screen your child to determine if he or she is on the severe end of the spectrum. The psychologist will also evaluate the number of hours of service your child is eligible to receive. Once accepted, you will be directed to one of the five TPAS partner agencies for service.

For more information, call Surrey Place Centre or the TPAS community partner nearest you:

**SURREY PLACE CENTRE**

2 Surrey Place  
Toronto, ON M5S 2C2  
(416) 925-5141  
[www.surreyplace.on.ca](http://www.surreyplace.on.ca)

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:**

**ADVENTURE PLACE**

155 McNicoll Avenue  
North York, ON M2H 2C1  
(416) 744-7650

**AISLING DISCOVERIES CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE**

110-325 Milner Avenue  
Scarborough, ON M1B 5N1  
(416) 321-5464  
[www.aislingdiscoveries.on.ca](http://www.aislingdiscoveries.on.ca)

**THE ETOBICOKE CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

65 Hartside Drive  
Etobicoke, ON M9R 2S8  
(416) 240-1111

**GENEVA CENTRE FOR AUTISM**

112 Merton Street  
Toronto, ON M4S 2Z8  
(416) 322-7877  
[www.autism.net](http://www.autism.net)

# TORONTO PRESCHOOL AUTISM SERVICE

Committed to helping children with autism experience success at home, school, childcare and in the community.

ADVENTURE PLACE



Surrey Place Centre



TORONTO PRESCHOOL  
AUTISM SERVICE