

INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE INCLUSION PROGRAM?

The Inclusion Program provides assistance to regulated child care services to ensure children with exceptionalities (diagnosed or undiagnosed) can participate to their fullest potential in a regular child care service program.

WHAT IS INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE?

Inclusive child care ensures children of all abilities, including children with exceptionalities, have equitable access to quality child care and the opportunity to learn through play along with their peers in a regular child care service program. Inclusive child care requires the involvement of all Early Childhood Educators to work as a team to support the individual strengths and needs of each child so that they may participate meaningfully in all aspects of the child care day. Quality inclusive child care programs foster the development of all children in an optimal learning environment.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Any regulated child care service including licensed child care centres; individually licensed family child care homes, and family child care providers approved under an agency licence.

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST A CHILD CARE SERVICES?

The Inclusion Program is available to provide assistance to eligible child care services in inclusionary programs and practices by offering:

- **Consultative Support**
The provision of guidance and information to assist eligible child care services in identifying and accessing resources to plan and ensure all children can participate to their fullest potential in a regular child care service program.
- **Grants**
The provision of financial resources to assist eligible child care services in ensuring all children can participate to their fullest potential in a regular child care service program. Where recommended by a Regional Inclusion Consultant and approved, the following financial supports are available within the Child Care Inclusion Program:
 - Replacement Staff: Financial support to assist with the cost of a child care service replacing a caregiver who is participating in a multi-disciplinary meeting or professional learning opportunity. This may also include some associated travel (pre-approval required).
 - Professional Learning: Financial support to assist with the cost of caregivers accessing professional learning relevant to the needs of the home/homeroom. It may include professional learning fees and some associated travel (pre-approval required).
 - Funded Space: Financial support to assist with cost of a child care service keeping up to two vacant spaces empty to enhance the caregiver to child ratio in the impacted home/homeroom; and
 - Staffing Grant: Financial support to assist with the cost of wages and benefits for an additional caregiver to be added to the team in the impacted home/homeroom to enhance the caregiver to child ratio.

Participation in the Inclusion Program is voluntary and is provided at the request of the child care service.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL INCLUSION CONSULTANT?

The role of the regional inclusion consultant includes but is not limited to:

- Assessment and recommendation of inclusion support requests;
- Monitoring and evaluating child care services actively involved with the inclusion program;
- Participation in multi-disciplinary or individual team meetings (where applicable);
- Consultation and collaboration with other professionals (where applicable);
- Assisting in the development, implementation and evaluation of:
 - Action Plans
 - Individual Program Plans
 - Behaviour guidance principles
 - Intervention strategies
 - Visual strategies
 - Environmental impacts
 - Required equipment
- Developing and delivering professional learning (where applicable); and
- Providing knowledge, skill teaching and resources applicable to the child care service.

HOW CAN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAM BE OBTAINED?

Further information on the inclusion program can be found at: www.gov.nl.ca/education/childcare/inclusive-child-care/ or by contacting a regional office at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/department/contact/#childcare>.