

Provincial Legislation Helping you Help your Child

HISTORY

Kids First Communication Services Inc. was incorporated in January 2006. Kids First is privately owned and operated by Mrs. Robyn Henderson. Mrs Henderson has a Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology and has completed several years in a PhD. Program at the University of Alberta, specializing in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Mrs. Henderson has worked with children with severe special needs for over ten years and has both administrative and research experience.

While attending her PhD program, Robyn became aware of the significant clinical needs experienced by children and families in Edmonton and surrounding areas. In response to these needs, the vision of Kids First was born.

The Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) Act was proclaimed on August 1, 2004. The FSCD program is "intended to provide family-centered services focusing on the child's developmental needs as well as the family in supporting the child"

Specialized Services is one of many services available under the Act.

For more information about the various programs and services available, please contact your FSCD worker directly or call FSCD's intake line at (780) 644-1636.

To learn more about this unique piece of Legislation please access the Family Support for Children with Disabilities Policy and Procedure Manual , Specialized Services at:

www.child.gov.ab.ca

Other Resources:

Alberta Government

<http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/591.cfm>

Autism Society of Edmonton

<http://www.autismedmonton.org/community-services/parent-and-family>

Autism Kids Store

<http://www.autismkidsstore.com/>

Welcome to Kids First

This brochure will provide you with a quick introduction to Kids First and a few important items to remember as we support you in pursuing Specialized Services.



Kids First's Mission

- ❖ Children will develop positive social relationships and increased independence in normal activities of daily living.
- ❖ Families will experience an increased sense of competency and control over their own lives.
- ❖ Kids First's team members will maintain a positive work environment that exemplifies integrity, professionalism, and a high standard of continuing competency.

Philosophy: Kids First Believes in...

- ❖ Respecting the rights of individuals.
- ❖ Empowering parents to achieve a high level of independence & autonomy.
- ❖ Treating the family as a whole. Parents are encouraged to reserve time for themselves, spouses, siblings, family & friends, along with time for their children with special needs.
- ❖ Normalization. Children with special needs should be treated as any other child, allowing for the development of their self-esteem.
- ❖ Developmentally Appropriate Practice. All teaching approaches, materials and activities should be suitable to the child's developmental level.
- ❖ A multidisciplinary team approach. Children with severe disabilities present with a complexity of needs that can only be addressed through the integration and coordination of input from all team members.

Kids First Therapy Model

Kids First provides Specialized Services within a consultative-programming model. This model includes intensive, integrated, in-home, community and/or clinic-based programs involving a multidisciplinary team. The role of each team member is determined by the individual needs of the client and the scope of practice outlined by each clinician's Professional College. Team members include Parents, Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, Behaviour Consultants, Physical Therapists, Child Intervention Therapists and Program Coordinators.

Within this consultative model, parents and/or caregivers are highly involved. Caregiver involvement ensures that the benefits of therapy extend beyond the therapy sessions themselves. Most importantly, the consultative model provides you, the parent, with the skills needed to incorporate the therapeutic principles into your everyday life.

What's Next?

After our first visit, (if you have decided to pursue services with Kids First), please advise Kids First of your choice and also notify your FSCD worker. Your FSCD worker will then request an MDT date.

Once we have been notified of your choice, Kids First will create a Proposed Service Plan based on the documentation we have received and the information obtained during our initial visit. The Service Plan will outline your child's programming needs and requested hours of service.

The Service Plan will be presented at the MDT review. Kids First will work together with your FSCD worker to support you through the entire process and to answer all of your questions.

Financial Considerations

Kids First is a private organization that works with a team of employees to provide Specialized Services to our clients.

With regard to billing, it is important to note that FSCD works on a reimbursement system. That is, Kids First administers the funding outright by paying all employees and subcontractors. Funds are then reimbursed to Kids First by FSCD once the billing sheets are signed, submitted to Kids First, and processed by FSCD. To avoid disruption in your child's program, it is imperative that billing sheets are signed and submitted on the 15th and 31st of each month.

More Questions?

If you have any further questions about our program, please contact Louise Demers, Business Manager, at louise@kids-first.ca or call 780.491.KIDS (5437).



~ To Learn More Call: 780.491.KIDS (5437) ~
~ Or Visit: www.kids-first.ca ~