

CAREGIVER-MEDIATED EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS

A guide for service providers



**Children
First**



What are the Caregiver-Mediated Early Years (CMEY) programs?

CMEY programs are an initiative by the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) providing families with free, play-based programs that help caregivers support their child's skill development in social interaction, play, communication, emotional development, adaptive development and self-help skills.

Who is eligible to participate in CMEY programs?

All children 12 to 48 months registered in the OAP are eligible. Families must first receive an invitation from the Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services before they can register.

What programs are being offered?

- Six CMEY programs are being offered across the province.
- An online/virtual format is offered for families located anywhere in Ontario as space allows.
- Families who have received invitation letters and whose children fall within the applicable age range can participate in any of these programs.
- Many services are available in English and French, with some programs offering translation services as needed.

For the complete list of programs, visit the OAP's Caregiver-Mediated Early Years Programs webpage [here](#).

What programs are being offered in Windsor-Essex?

The following three programs will be offered both in-person and online as permitted:

Program	Agency	Age Range	Program Website
Social ABCs	Connections Early Years Family Centre	12 to 42 months	For more on Social ABCs, click here .
Project ImPACT	Children First	12 to 48 months	For more on Project ImPACT, click here .
The PLAY Project	John McGivney Children's Centre	12 to 48 months	For more on the PLAY Project, click here .

How can we support families who receive an invitation?

1. Encourage families to register as soon as possible.

- Invitations are sent via e-mail or letter mail and include registration deadlines.
- All eligible families should have received an invitation.
- If an eligible family has not received theirs, suggest that they check the Junk/Spam folder in their e-mail.
Otherwise, direct them to contact the OAP at:
1-888-444-4530 | oap@ontario.ca

2. Tell families to visit the OAP website.

- Families can find detailed information on the CMEY programs [here](#). (Tip: Bookmark this webpage for quick reference.)

How can we support families who receive an invitation?

3. For programs in Windsor-Essex:

Families can contact Children First at info@children-first.ca or call 519-250-1850. Autism Services Coordinator Jennifer Westlake will register families and relay this information to the local service providers.

Note: Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC) is providing an additional CMEY program locally at John McGivney Children's Centre. For more information, visit the TVCC website [here](#).

4. For programs outside of Windsor-Essex:

Families can contact service providers directly. For a complete list of service providers and contact information, click [here](#).