

ASD Communication and Behaviour Service

Information Sheet

ASD Communication & Behaviour intervention service aims to improve the social, communication and coping skills of children who have autism in order to improve their quality of life and reduce the likelihood of them needing intensive support services in the future.

ASD Communication & Behaviour Service is delivered by IDEA Services and is available throughout New Zealand.

The programme

There is a high demand across the country and the service has a limited resource so families may be on a waitlist for some time. Once allocated a specialist worker can help with a range of issues directly resulting from child's autism that requires a referral relating to any of the following:

- Communication/Social Skills :
 - Along with an assessment we can use a range of communication interventions for young children with autism in attempt to address these difficulties.
 - Work with families on understanding and developing their child's communication skills
- Daily Living Skills:
 - Our experienced team are able to give advice to families and develop teaching programmes to help families address issues such as: Toileting; Sleeping; Dressing; Behaving safely in the Community
- Sensory Processing:
 - Our team can help the child's family to identify what these difficulties are and work with them to develop coping strategies as well as having a planned approach to reducing long term impact.
- Executive Functioning:
 - Our team can help the family and child identify what these difficulties are and then formulate and implement support strategies to compensate.
- Anxiety:
 - We can provide individual or group anxiety management programmes tailored to each child's needs.

The goals are to:

- Provide early support to children and young people to improve communication, social and coping skills
- Reduce the likelihood of them needing intensive support services in the future

We can work alongside other services across a range of settings important to the young person:

- At home
- In education
- Health
- In the community

What we offer:

- Early assistance: we are not a crisis response service but can assist before concerning behaviour grows

- Individual assessment for families with tailored solutions to meet each child/ young person's needs
- Workable strategies and training to ensure families can confidently address communication, social and coping skills issues

How is the service delivered?

- Our service is flexible and we will work in the ways that best meet the needs of each family.
- Our team will work with each family to assess the specific needs of the child or young person and develop a strategy that addresses their circumstances.
- Contact with families will be intensive for about three to six months, with regular assessment of progress.

Who delivers it?

The programme is run by Community Specialist Services, part of IDEA Services. Our team of facilitators are all very skilled and experienced specialist workers who have experience in supporting young children with autism and their families. **See our website for details about who our facilitators are.*

Accessing the programme

Where is the programme available?

Anywhere in New Zealand

Who can participate?

Children and young people can be referred if they:

- Are under 19 years of age
- Have a primary diagnosis of autism confirmed
- Aren't currently referred to or involved with **Behaviour Support Services** i.e. Explore or Ministry of Education
- Aren't in a crisis or risk situation requiring immediate intervention/support
- Are presenting with social/communication difficulties and/or mild to moderate behavioural difficulties which arise from their autism – see guide below
- Have a family who has the capacity to benefit from short term intervention

How do I refer to this service?

Families need to be referred to the service by one of the following referrers:

- A paediatrician, psychiatrist, or a clinical psychologist - with appropriate autism experience
- ASD Developmental Coordinators from DHB's
- Local Ministry of Health Needs Assessment and Service Coordination agencies (NASC). *Contact details can be found online at www.moh.govt.nz/disability under "contact details".*

For General Enquiries:

Contact the Programme Coordinator on:

- **Phone:** 0800 273 7587
- **Email:** asd-communication@idea.org.nz
- **Website:** www.ihc.org.nz/our-services/specialist-services/autism-programmes/asd-communication-and-behaviour/