



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

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Principles of Service Delivery

The Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders (OAFCCD) believes that an effective speech and language delivery service is based on the following principles:

1. Speech and language services should be publicly funded, available in every community in a timely manner, regardless of diagnosis, or family circumstances.
2. Services should be equitably distributed with mandatory provision and funding, and local coordination of services which recognizes and responds to unique community characteristics.
3. Provincial standards should be in place to ensure on-going identification of children and provision of a full range of speech and language services. Services should be provided through variety of delivery models to best meet the needs of the child
4. Healthy development of speech, language and hearing should be promoted.
5. Early and on-going identification and intervention for children at risk for communication disorders should be provided.
6. Services should be delivered to children in an environment that is as familiar and natural as possible, and the travel distance should be kept to a minimum.
7. Speech and language programming should be integrated into the child's learning environment to support academic and social success.
8. Specialized services should be available for the children that require them, including augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), assistive technology (AT) and audiology services.
9. Parents are vital partners in the delivery of speech and language services and should be empowered through training, support and recognition of their role.
10. Services should continuously support the child and significant others (parents, caregivers, teachers, educational assistants, etc.) to allow the child to meet the changing demands as she/he progresses toward adulthood.
11. The service system should be seamless with smooth transitions at every age and stage.