

Section 7 Local Information

Professionals can best support each child’s healthy development by using and referring to the services in each local community. Many of these are universal and can be accessed by caregivers with their children. In many services, all children can receive stimulation in playful early learning environments. Others may require a referral from a professional (see section 1 - The On Track Guide) and should be accessed when early identification of delays or risks are made or suspected. As noted in section 1 a “wait and see” approach is not an acceptable alternative, as a delay in support can translate into increasingly profound delays in a child’s development. Early identification and early intervention leads to more positive outcomes for children, such as less need for special education services, improved academic achievement, lower rates of grade retention, and higher rates of school completion.



This section includes links to key local contacts and services. Due to the fact that changes take place over time, we cannot guarantee that all numbers and links will continue to operate. Contact information will be updated as feasible. If you need to make a referral and the link is no longer operational, please contact your local public health agency.



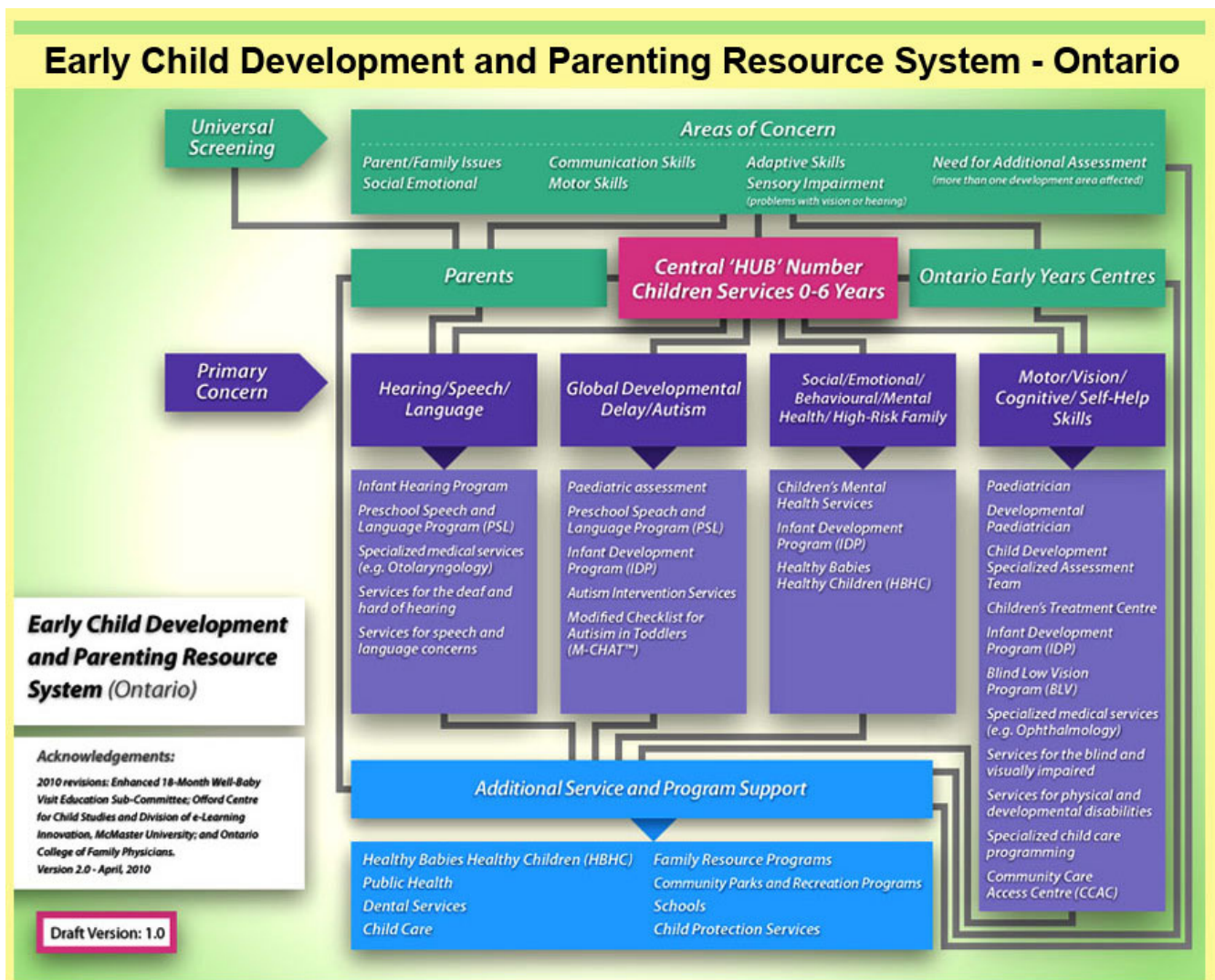
To find the contact information for your local health department or unit check www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/contact/phu/phu_mn.html . If you are aware of changes in contact information, please contact us.

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Template for Local Contacts

This template shows the children’s services that provide either universal or specialized services to children. Local contact information can be inserted into the spaces prior to printing the template.

18-months Flow Chart



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Some communities in Ontario have an online link for local contacts and services, while others do not. If your community does not have an 18 months flow chart, use the above template to create one.

Template Referral Form

Some communities in Ontario have developed referral forms to assist with referring a child to another agency.

- ◆ The purpose of these forms is to:
 - Assist professionals to decide which agency the child and family should be referred to
 - Assist with the process of collaboration between agencies
 - Assist with the communication between the referring agency and the receiving agency

Each community can adapt this form by entering the appropriate local services and contact information.

The form can then be printed as required.

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In the table below, most children's services are shared through a link to a local website or a link to a PDF containing the local information. Some communities key contact information is on one webpage and additional information on a different link. You can also look for local services at

www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/earlychildhood/index.aspx

To access local contact information go to

www.beststart.org/OnTrack_English/7-localcontacts.html.