

The role of Early Childhood Resource Specialists

Within Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Services
and Autism Services



Information for parents

Who are Early Childhood Resource Specialists?

Early Childhood Resource Specialists (ECRS) help young children with special needs and their families.

An ECRS is a registered member of the College of Early Childhood Educators with additional training in special education.

An ECRS works with children who have a variety of needs related to:

- learning
- movement
- speech, language and communication
- behaviour

An ECRS supports children and families by working with community service providers - such as early childhood educators, resource teachers and public health.

Where do we work?

We work with children and families:

- At the Chedoke site of McMaster Children's Hospital
- In families' homes
- In the community at early learning and childcare programs, and early years centres



How can we help?

We help parents by:

- Providing ways to support learning, behaviour, communication and development
- Providing education and counselling
- Providing information about community agencies and helping with referrals

We help children by:

- Working one-on-one or in a group to support learning, communication and overall development
- Providing assessment and treatment to support the child's development

We help community service providers by:

- Offering help to programs in order to meet the child's special needs
- Helping adapt resources and the environment to meet the child's special needs
- Providing materials to support the child's learning, communication and development

Who does the ECRS work with at McMaster Children's Hospital?

The ECRS works as a member of the health care team in the following programs:

- Children's Developmental Rehabilitation Program (CDRP)
- Communication Support Team (CST)
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Service (ASD)
- Specialized Developmental and Behavioural Services (SDBS)



As a partners in **Best Start**, we provide support to children up to 6 years of age and their families. Best Start is about parents, educators, health care providers and community agencies working together to make Hamilton the “Best place to raise a child”.

We participate in **Raising the Bar**, a voluntary community quality assurance program for Special Needs Resourcing Agencies.

**Your Early Childhood
Resource Specialist is:**

905-521-2100, ext:

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and Autism Services
McMaster Children’s Hospital
Chedoke Site
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905-521-2100**