

How to access our service

Referrals are accepted from parents, doctors, hospital, neonatal follow-up programs, therapists, community programs and other agencies servicing young children.

Contact us directly:

Brenda Escobar,
Early Childhood Educator
Intake Consultant
416-425-6220 ext. 3087

Play and Learn site
666 Eglinton Ave. W.
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1C3

bescobar@hollandbloorview.ca

The Infant Development Service is offered through Early Learning and Development at Holland Bloorview.

Our staff

- Intake Consultant
- Early Childhood Educators
- Resource Teachers
- Physiotherapists
- Administrator

Infant Development Service

Family-centred Intervention Services for Children (0-5 years) with Special Needs

About Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital is Canada's largest children's rehabilitation hospital.

Our vision is to create a world of possibility for kids with disability. We pioneer treatments, technologies, therapies and real-world programs that give children with disabilities the tools to participate fully in life.

Holland Bloorview serves about 7,000 children each year, with about 600 inpatient admissions and 58,000 outpatient visits. Holland Bloorview is a world-class teaching hospital fully affiliated with the University of Toronto. We train future health-care specialists in the field of childhood disability. The Bloorview Research Institute is located onsite, allowing us to integrate cutting-edge research and teaching with frontline care to improve children's quality of life.

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

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Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Our philosophy

The Holland Bloorview Infant Development Service recognizes infancy and early childhood are crucial periods in the healthy development of an individual.

Our commitment to Family-centred care is demonstrated in our respect for families and in the recognition that families are active participants in our service delivery.

Who we serve

- The Holland Bloorview Infant Development Service is offered to families, whose children have been identified as having established risks of developmental delay and disabilities including physical, neurological, or prematurity.
- We serve families with children from birth to age five years, residing in the Toronto region. The child does not need to be a Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital client in order to access this service.
- We service children who have a valid Ontario Health Card.

Please note: Registration with this service does not facilitate access to other Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital services.

Infant development service

- We provide an integrated approach to infant development and family-centred intervention that is parent-led and responsive to parent strengths, competencies and priorities.
- We believe in a family-centred model of care approach.
- Through a transdisciplinary approach, and in collaboration with other service providers, we aim to provide the highest level of opportunity for the optimal development of the child and family unit. Support is primarily provided within the child's natural home environment, where the infant developmental consultant serves many functions.

Some of our services include:

- initial client intake team consultation held at a Holland Bloorview designated setting
- informal and formal child and family assessments, using a variety of tools
- direct early intervention in all developmental domains (gross and fine motor, social and emotional, language and cognitive)
- planning interventions to promote secure infant attachment
- assistance to families wishing to access information about additional community resources and supports
- advocacy for and with families in their relationship with health, social and community services
- sharing information related to typical and atypical child development
- a play-based intervention program plan
- support to enhance parenting skills and parental competence
- intervention to promote positive parent-infant interactions and support for the relationship

Additional programs

- 0 – 2 Babies Program is currently offered at the Holland Bloorview Nursery School - Play and Learn site at 666 Eglinton Avenue West. This program is for infants three months to two years and their parents/primary caregivers and offers a sensory, play based experience for infants.
- The integrated group program (2.25 hours) is offered once per week, Tuesdays or Fridays. A fee for service applies to this program.
- In our east-and west-end nursery school locations, opportunities for parent and child drop-in play programs may be offered if there is a need identified.

Infant development programs history

Within the continuum of services and support for children in Ontario, there are specialized programs that focus on infants and children who have a developmental delay or who risk delayed development for established, biological and/or psychosocial reasons.

Infant Development Programs provide a range of prevention and early intervention services and supports for such families and infants. The first Infant Development Programs in Ontario were established in 1974 by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and there are now more than 45 programs in the province.

Most of the Infant Development programs serve children from birth to five years of age. Programs are administered by a variety of community agencies. They have evolved in different directions to meet the needs of each community and to complement the mix of services available.