

# SIGNS

## of a Child's Vision Problem

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Blinking and/or rubbing eyes often

Headaches, nausea, dizziness

Eyes that itch or burn

Unusually short attention span

Avoidance of tasks with small objects

Discoloration

Turning or tilting head to use  
only one eye

Covering one eye

Eyes that cross, turn in or out,  
move independently

Holding toys close to eyes

Bumping into things, tripping

Squinting, frowning

Redness, soreness

**W**hen there is a vision problem, your child may not know something is wrong and, therefore, may not alert you. You can make a difference by getting help from CNIB and learning how to adapt the child's environment.

**Lighting:** Is it bright enough? Is it too bright? Is it in the right place?

**Contrast:** Are there strong contrasts to help children see the things that are important?

**Location:** Are things that children need to see placed within their field of vision?

**Size:** Is print large enough? Is print clear? Are toy and game pieces big enough?

**Organization:** Are things well organized so they can be located with ease? Have cluttering elements been eliminated?

**Colour:** Are colours clear and bright on things you want noticed?

**Glare:** Do surfaces cut down glare so reflected light does not interfere with vision? Have distracting light sources been reduced by adjustable blinds, shades, carpeting, etc.?

**Time and Planning:** Is enough time given to look at things? Can children anticipate what is going to happen and be prepared to observe? Have verbal cues been offered when appropriate?



# 1 CNIB Services for Children & their Families

CNIB is committed to meeting the unique needs of children with vision loss and their families. CNIB services for children are briefly outlined below. For additional information about CNIB, its programs and services, we invite you to contact the Children and Family Services Department in Calgary or Edmonton.

## **Calgary CNIB Centre**

15 Colonel Baker Place NE

Calgary AB T2E 4Z3

Phone: (403) 266-8831

TTY: (403) 264-0105

Fax: (403) 265-5029

Toll free: 1-800-376-2642

Telecentre (CNIB news and activities): (403) 264-2141

## **Edmonton CNIB Centre**

12010 Jasper Avenue

Edmonton AB T5K 0P3

Phone: (780) 488-4871

TTY: (780) 482-2791

Fax: (780) 482-0017

Toll free: 1-866-459-2648

Information Line (CNIB news and activities):

(780) 451-4907

*Visit our website: [www.cnib.ca](http://www.cnib.ca)*

## **CNIB SERVICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (birth to 4 years)**

CNIB Early Intervention Program provides services to blind, visually impaired, and deafblind children and their families. An occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, and social worker support the program. The program offers:

- Functional vision assessment by the occupational therapist (OT); follow-up intervention by the occupational therapy assistant (OTA)
- Strategies for concept development and life skills training specific to vision loss
- Carryover of treatment goals in child's environment by the OT and the OTA
- Opportunities to prepare children and their families for the transition into pre-school or other programs
- Education opportunities and consultation to community programs in order to transition children into preschool programs
- Access to orientation & mobility instruction, vision rehabilitation services, technical aids assistance, rehabilitation teaching and deafblind services. These services are subject to a fee and will be charged to a third party.
- Family support and counselling

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## 1 CNIB Services for Children & their Families (CONT'D)

- Advocacy for accessing information and funding supports from agencies, medical, health and educational professionals
- Access to toys, books, games and other resources through CNIB's toy lending library
- Recreational and educational programs for children, family members and other service providers

### ONGOING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT CNIB

Children entering the primary and secondary school system receive the continued support of CNIB. We encourage and assist families, caregivers and other service providers to advocate for the support their children require at school or in other areas of daily life.

The Children and Family Counsellor helps families explore and access appropriate services available in their community. Counsellors work in partnership with other community professionals to ensure families are receiving the assistance and support they need.

The CNIB Children and Family Counsellor provides services including:

- Grief and loss counselling, emotional support and crisis intervention
- Information and relevant resources

- Continued advocacy for accessing information and funding supports from agencies, medical, health and educational professionals
- Ongoing transition preparation
- Coordination of both individual and group programs and special events; opportunities for recreation, social skill development and overall personal development
- Ongoing access to the toy lending library
- Referrals to other departments and services within CNIB (orientation and mobility, independent living skills, low vision services, consumer products, deafblind services, CNIB Library, etc.)
- Referrals to external agencies

### SPECIAL FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH CNIB

Through CNIB, there are several special programs available that provide funding for various services or supports. A number of these special programs are listed below. Please contact the CNIB Children and Family Counsellor in Calgary or Edmonton for additional information and application details for these and other funding programs.

#### CNIB Scholarship Package

This package contains information regarding scholarships available to students with vision loss.

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# 1 CNIB Services for Children & their Families (CONT'D)

## **Euclid Herie Technical Aids Scholarship and Leadership Awards**

These awards recognize the leadership contributions to the community and educational success of individuals with vision loss who are resident in Alberta, NWT or Nunavut.

*The Technical Aids Scholarship is available to a high school student and is to be used for the purchase of technical equipment or software to assist in one's studies.*

## **The John H. and Eleanor M. Lynes Memorial Fund**

This fund has been established to provide financial assistance to children who are 19 years or younger. Children must be legally blind or deafblind and have an additional severe disability. Funding may be used to provide various services for children.

## **The Margaret Halverson Fund**

This fund has been established to provide assistance for children with vision loss in Alberta to pursue learning opportunities in music.

## **CNIB/Rotary Club Eyeglasses Fund**

Southern Alberta CNIB clients may qualify to receive funding from the CNIB/Rotary Club Eyeglasses Fund. Call the CNIB Children and Family Counsellor in Calgary for more information.

## **COMMUNITY CONCESSIONS**

Various travel, entertainment, recreation and community concessions are available to persons who are CNIB clients and are legally blind. The CNIB National Identification Card is the accepted proof of eligibility for these concessions. If you require further clarification about eligibility for concessions and which concessions are available, contact the CNIB Children and Family Counsellor in your area. Contact the CNIB nearest you to apply for the CNIB National Identification Card.



# 2 Early Intervention and Early Education

## CALGARY AND AREA

### Ability Society Early Birds Preschool Program

(403) 262-9445

[www.abilitysociety.org](http://www.abilitysociety.org)

Provides an early childhood education program for children (ages 2½ – 6 years) with moderate to severe disabilities. Programs are individually customized and use a multi-disciplinary team to meet the child's unique learning needs. The Ability Society also maintains a children's resource centre and an equipment lending library for young people and their families.

### Calgary Regional Health Authority Early Intervention Program

(403) 569-2100

[www.crha-health.ab.ca](http://www.crha-health.ab.ca)

Program for families who have a child experiencing delays in development and has a diagnosed disability. Services include: home based support program; assessment of child's development and support from a multi-disciplinary team, child and parent groups, information regarding community supports and services; referral to other agencies.

### Calgary Quest Children's Society

(403) 253-0003

Provides a multi-disciplinary pre-school program for children with special needs.

### Cause and Effect Early Intervention Services

(403) 652-1503

Early intervention program with services that include: planned coordination, assessment, individual programming, direct therapy, transition planning, parenting workshops, teacher in-services.

### Emily Follensbee School

(403) 777-6980

[www.cbe.ab.ca/b036/](http://www.cbe.ab.ca/b036/)

Offers a preschool program with a multi-disciplinary team to children with severe disabilities.

### Getting Ready for Inclusion Today (GRIT)

(403) 215-2444

[www.telusplanet.net/public/gritcal](http://www.telusplanet.net/public/gritcal)

Provides a multi-disciplinary team approach to children with disabilities in the family's home and community. Services include: home-based or centre-based therapy, parent support, book and toy lending library.

### I'm For Kids Team

(403) 995-2435

*e-mail: [wendy@imforkids.org](mailto:wendy@imforkids.org)*

Provides a coordinated child-centered / family-centered program by ensuring a developmentally appropriate approach for each child. Each child is encouraged to grow and develop to their optimum potential within all environments: home, school, and community.

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## 2 Early Intervention and Early Education (CONT'D)

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### Infant Resource Centre

(403) 242-3533

Offers counselling services, daytime play programs, and parent seminars on basic discipline, daily living skills and play.

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### PACE Kids Rehabilitation Program

(403) 234-7876

Rehabilitation program for young children with motor disabilities and their families. PACE provides early intervention, preschool programs, after school programs and support to families, including home visits, family assistance in attending group activities and support planning. The early intervention program focuses on teaching functional mobility, self-care skills, fine motor skills and active communication.

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### Parents and Children Together (PACT)

(403) 777-1856

*www.parentdevelopment.com*

Involves parents and their preschool children in new learning experiences. PACT is for parents – support, ideas and encouragement in a discussion group format, as well as in the nursery with your children.

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### Providence Children's Centre (PCC)

(403) 255-5577

*www.providencechildren.com*

Offers therapeutic and educational services to children with multiple disabilities. The services can be assessed on-site in an integrated/segregated classroom or alternatively, outreach services are provided to child-care agencies. Services include: assessment and treatment, family consultation, multi-disciplinary services, and access to other community agencies.

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### Regional Educational Assessment & Consultation Services (REACH)

(403) 777-6983

*www.reachservices.ab.ca*

Provides educational support services to students with special needs in southern Alberta. REACH provides consultation and assessment to schools in the areas of audiology and orientation and mobility skills. Additional multi-disciplinary therapies are also accessible.

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### Renfrew Educational Services

(403) 291-5038

*www.renfreweducation.org*

Offers therapy services in an integrated school environment. Educational assessments are provided to determine academic strengths and area of need to determine treatment plans. Services include

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## 2 Early Intervention and Early Education (CONT'D)

multi-disciplinary services in an inclusive half-day educational junior kindergarten (2½ – 4 years) and kindergarten program (5 years).

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### EDMONTON AND AREA

#### ABC Head Start

(780) 461-5353

*www.abcheadstart.org*

Provides early intervention services/pre-kindergarten to children from low-income families whose child is experiencing a mild to moderate developmental delay. Programs may include home visits, therapeutic interventions, and group activities.

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#### Broxton Park Early Childhood Special Needs Program

(780) 962-1695

*www.psd70.ab.ca/broxton*

Provides early education program for children with special needs (ages 2 – 5 years) using an interdisciplinary team model.

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#### Capital Health – Early Intervention Programs

##### Main number

(780) 486-5437 or *www.cha.ab.ca*

##### Edmonton

(780) 483-1744 or *eeip.epsb.net*

#### St. Albert

(780) 458-7371

#### County of Strathcona and Leduc, including Sherwood Park

(780) 467-7140 or *www.robinhoodassoc.com*

#### Connect Society D.E.A.F. Services

(780) 454-9581(V/TTY)

or *www.connectsociety.org*

(for children with a suspected or diagnosed hearing loss)

Provides in-home family support, play groups and parent groups for families who have a child 0 – 3½ years old who is experiencing delays in development. Other services include: toy, book and video lending library; community referrals; ongoing developmental assessment and activity suggestions.

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#### Community Options for Children and Families

(780) 455-1818

*www.communityoptions.ab.ca*

Early Childhood Options program provides support to families seeking an inclusive child care setting for preschool children with disabilities. Community Preschool Education program provides an educational program for preschool children with disabilities in community settings.

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## 2 Early Intervention and Early Education (CONT'D)

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### Connect Society

(780) 454-9581

*www.connectsociety.org*

Offers an early intervention program for children under 3½ years of age and an early education program for children 2½ – 5½ years of age. Children in these programs have a suspected or diagnosed hearing loss. The early education program is also available to children with parents who are deaf.

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### Early Education, Edmonton Public School Board

(780) 489-5100 or (780) 483-1744

*www.epsb.ca*

Provides educational services within a school setting for young children who have severe special needs. Program sites for the early education program include:

Hazeldean General Office (780) 439-0868

Waverley Early Education (780) 469-6682

Scott Robertson School (780) 475-3565

Evansdale Elementary School (780) 476-3331

Mayfield School (780) 489-5100

Homesteader School (780) 478-1139

Tevie Miller Heritage School (780) 436-0465

Elmwood School (780) 489-6749

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### Early Head Start Program

(780) 426-3666

*www.ecccc.org*

Offers an early intervention program to low income families and their children who are under 5 years of age. Programming may include home visits, playgroups, parent groups, and information and support. The Early Head Start Program is a partnership with the Edmonton Early Intervention Program and the Capital Health Authority. Programs are based in the following schools: Alex Taylor Elementary School, Youngstown Elementary School, McArthur Elementary School, and Allendale Elementary School.

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### Educational Consultants for the Sensory Impaired (ECSI)

(780) 464-5809

Consulting company providing educational assessments, program planning and evaluation activities for individuals with a sensory impairment. Technical aids training and educational in-services are also available. Other professionals may be accessed through ECSI in addition to hearing and vision consultants.

## 2 Early Intervention and Early Education (CONT'D)

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### **Edmonton Regional Educational Consulting Services (previously Belvedere Consulting)**

(780) 429-8050

*www.consultingservices.epsb.net*

Consultants provide interdisciplinary assessment, consultation and in-services to address the educational needs of students (ages 2½ – 20 years) in northern and central Alberta who have severe disabilities and meet the eligibility coding requirements. Services may include: educational and functional vision assessments, multi-disciplinary referrals, consultation services to schools and community agencies, liaison with parents and medical community, beginning orientation and mobility skills and pre-braille skills and braille transcription service.

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### **Elves Special Needs Society**

(780) 454-5310

*www.elves-society.com*

Elves Child Development Centre provides an educational program delivered by a multi-disciplinary team for people aged 2½ – 20 years who are severely developmentally delayed and/or medically fragile.

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### **Getting Ready for Inclusion Today (GRIT)**

(780) 454-9910

*www.gritprogram.com*

Individualized home, community, and school-based educational program that provides a multi-disciplinary

therapy team to children (2½ – 6 years) with disabilities. GRIT offers playgroups, parent support and workshops, audiology and vision consultation as needed, toy and equipment libraries, and counselling services.

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### **Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools, Early Childhood Services that Support Children with Special Needs**

(780) 459-7734

*www.gsacrd.ab.ca*

Provides inclusive settings for pre-school and kindergarten classes which include a transdisciplinary team of professionals.

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### **Head Start Program, Sturgeon Community**

1-888-459-4062 or (780) 939-4341

*www.sturgeon.ab.ca*

This is an inter-agency program for children between 3 years 6 months and 5 years of age who are experiencing difficulties in development in the areas of speech and language, behaviour, fine motor skills and gross motor skills.

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### **Robin Hood Association, Sherwood Park**

(780) 467-7140

*www.robinhoodassoc.com*

A variety of services and programs are offered through the Robin Hood Association including early intervention home-based programming, early childhood services and family support.

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## 2 Early Intervention and Early Education (CONT'D)

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### Transitions

(780) 458-7371

*www.transitions-ab.org*

The early intervention program is a home-based program for families with young children (up to 3½ years of age) who have disabilities or developmental delays. Other services include: toy and resource lending library, family support, computer learning centre.

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### Westview Early Intervention Program

(780) 968-3717

Provides assessment and intervention strategies to children with developmental delays in two or more areas and/or children with a diagnosed disability. Services are available to children birth – 5 years of age and in the areas of Devon, Spruce Grove and Stony Plain.

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## NORTHERN ALBERTA

### Aspen Health,

### Early Childhood Development Program

(780) 349-3316 ext. 238

*www.aspenrha.ab.ca*

A home-based educational program for children birth to 5½ years of age with developmental delays or disabilities.

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### Bonnyville Early Intervention Program

(780) 826-3323; if busy call (780) 943-2777

*www.nlsd.ab.ca*

Family outreach workers provide services to children, school staff, parents and community groups.

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### Edson/Hinton/Jasper Early Intervention Program

(780) 712-2720

*www.aspenrha.ab.ca*

Provides assessment and intervention strategies to children (birth – 6 years of age) with disabilities or developmental delays.

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### Edmonton Regional Educational Consulting Services (previously Belvedere Consulting)

(780) 429-8050

*www.consultingservices.epsb.net*

Consultants provide interdisciplinary assessment, consultation and in-services to address the educational needs of students (ages 2½ – 20 years) in northern and central Alberta who have severe disabilities and meet the eligibility coding requirements. Services may include: educational and functional vision assessments, multi-disciplinary referrals, consultation services to schools and community agencies, liaison with parents and medical community, beginning orientation and mobility skills and pre-braille skills and braille transcription service.

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## 2 Early Intervention and Early Education (CONT'D)

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**Educational Consultants for the Sensory Impaired  
(ECSI)**  
(780) 464-5809

Consulting company providing educational assessments, program planning and evaluation activities for individuals with a sensory impairment. Technical aids training and educational in-services are also available. Other professionals may be accessed through ECSI in addition to hearing and vision consultants.

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**Empowering Citizens for Health and Opportunity  
Society (ECHOS)**  
Whitecourt (780) 778-2660  
Fox Creek (780) 622-3322  
*www.telusplanet.net/public/echosoc*

Provides support services to people with disabilities, including an early intervention program.

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**Fort McMurray Association for Community Living**  
(780) 791-3009

Provides various support services for people with disabilities, including an integrated preschool and advocacy service.

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**Fort McMurray Early Intervention Program**  
(780) 799-7900  
*www.fm-psd.ab.ca*

Provides educational assessments and professional services to children with special needs. The multi-disciplinary team provides ongoing assessment, treatment and educational programming designed to meet the individual learning and developmental needs of the child.

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**Grande Prairie Assessment Team, Crystal Park School**  
(780) 473-5616  
*www.gppsd.ab.ca/cpark*

Provides educational assessments and professional service to students (ages 3 – 20) in northern Alberta (excluding Fort McMurray) who fit the mandate in one of the three areas: sensory impairments, severe behaviour disorders, or severe communication disorders. Children must meet the Alberta Learning Severe Disability Criteria to access services. The multi-disciplinary team provides ongoing assessment, treatment and educational programming designed to meet the individual learning and developmental needs of the child.

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**Grande Prairie Community Preschool Team**  
(780) 538-5502

Assists families of children between 0 and 5 years of age who have unique or special needs.

## 2 Early Intervention and Early Education (CONT'D)

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### Grande Prairie Early Childhood Resource Centre

(780) 532-9684 or (780) 882-8679

Centrally located source of support for families; toy, equipment and resource library.

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### Hinton Aboriginal Head Start Program

(780) 865-5189

An integrated early intervention program for children 3 – 5 years of age who may be developmentally delayed.

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### Mistahia Early Intervention Program

(780) 538-7174

Provides support and information to children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

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### Peace River Early Childhood Development Program

(780) 624-7253

Provides assessment and follow-up services for children up to 4 years of age.

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### St. Paul Abilities Network – Early Intervention Program

(780) 645-3441

[www.stpaulabilitiesnetwork.ca](http://www.stpaulabilitiesnetwork.ca)

Support service that works with families who have a young child with a developmental delay or disability. Services may include: early intervention and assessment for infants and toddlers, home support, respite, and recreation services.

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## CENTRAL ALBERTA

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### The Children's Services Centre – Red Deer

(403) 340-2606

*e-mail: [inquiries@rdcsc.ca](mailto:inquiries@rdcsc.ca)*

A child development centre and community resource for children with special needs and their caregivers. The children's services centre offers a variety of services to children from birth – six years and their families. These include:

- Transdisciplinary Assessment
- Early Intervention
- Early Access to Supportive Education
- Diagnostic Clinics

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### East Central Health – Early Intervention Program

1-888-608-1516

[www.ech.ab.ca](http://www.ech.ab.ca)

Provides assessment and intervention strategies to children (birth to 3½ years) with a disability or developmental delay.

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### Edmonton Regional Educational Consulting Services

(780) 429-8050

[www.consultingservices.epsb.net](http://www.consultingservices.epsb.net)

Consultants provide interdisciplinary assessment, consultation and in-services to address the educational needs of students (ages 2½ – 20 years) in northern and central Alberta who have severe disabilities and meet the

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## 2 Early Intervention and Early Education (CONT'D)

eligibility coding requirements. Services may include: educational and functional vision assessments, multi-disciplinary referrals, consultation services to schools and community agencies, liaison with parents and medical community, beginning orientation and mobility skills and pre-braille skills and braille transcription service.

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### **Educational Consultants for the Sensory Impaired (ECSI)**

(780) 464-5809

Consulting company providing educational assessments, program planning and evaluation activities for individuals with a sensory impairment. Technical aids training and educational in-services are also available. Other professionals may be accessed through ECSI in addition to hearing and vision consultants.

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### **Regional Educational Assessment & Consultation Services (REACH)**

(403) 777-6983

*www.reachservices.ab.ca*

Provides educational support services to students with special needs in southern Alberta. REACH provides consultation and assessment to schools in the areas of audiology and orientation and mobility skills. Additional multi-disciplinary therapies are also accessible.

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### **Pediatric Rehabilitation Program – Red Deer**

(403) 314-5240

Provides services in Central Alberta for children 0 – 16 years old (speech and language up to 5½ years).

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### **Wetaskiwin Early Education Community Centre**

(780) 352-0224

*www.wrps.ab.ca*

Provides support to children with special needs and their families by providing educational programming to children 2½ – 5½ years of age.

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### **Wetaskiwin Head Start Society**

(780) 361-0085

*www.aisca.ab.ca/ecs.htm*

An early intervention program for children 3 – 5 years of age who have challenges in speech/language, social, emotional, cognitive, physical or behavioural development.

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### **Wetaskiwin Services for Challenged Children**

(780) 361-4319

A family support home-based service for children birth to preschool age who have developmental delays or disabilities.

## 2 Early Intervention and Early Education (CONT'D)

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### SOUTHERN ALBERTA

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#### Lethbridge CARE Services

(403) 381-5255

*www.chr.ab.ca*

A multi-disciplinary team provides rehabilitation services and early intervention support to children with special health needs and their families. Services are available for children 0 – 18 years of age.

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#### Lethbridge Opokaa'sin Early Intervention Society

(403) 380-2569

*www.opokaasin.org*

Early intervention program aims to strengthen and support connections among Aboriginal children, families and communities.

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#### Palliser Health Authority Early Intervention Program

(403) 528-8146 Medicine Hat

(403) 501-3314 Brooks

*www.palliserhealth.ca*

Provides services to families who have a young child (0 – 3½ years) with a disability or a developmental delay. Services include home visits, assessment and program planning, and ongoing support.

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#### Regional Educational Assessment & Consultation Services (REACH)

(403) 777-6983

*www.reachservices.ab.ca*

Provides educational support services to students with special needs in southern Alberta. REACH provides consultation and assessment to schools in the areas of audiology and orientation and mobility skills. Additional multi-disciplinary therapies are also accessible.

# 3 Education / School Based Services

## PROVINCE-WIDE

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**Alberta Education – Special Programs Branch**  
 (780) 422-6326 in Edmonton  
 Toll-free 310-0000 in Alberta  
[www.education.gov.ab.ca](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca)

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**Alberta Education**  
 ECS Program Unit Funding: A handbook for ECS Operators is available at  
[www.education.gov.ab.ca/funding/specialneeds.asp](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/funding/specialneeds.asp).

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**Materials Resource Unit (MRU)**  
[www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/visual\\_imp/visual\\_imp\\_index.htm](http://www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/visual_imp/visual_imp_index.htm)

The Materials Resource Unit (MRU) for the Visually Impaired loans alternate format resources (braille, large print, audiotape), kits, specialized equipment and professional resources to Alberta schools. In addition, the MRU offers a student equipment loan service that allows schools to borrow equipment such as brailers, braille notetakers, talking and large print calculators and closed circuit televisions.

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### Student Health Initiative

(780) 427-3429, Provincial Coordinator  
 for the Student Health Initiative  
[www.education.gov.ab.ca/shi](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/shi)

The goal of SHI is to improve access to and enhance the provision of integrated health and related support services for children with special health needs, to help them participate fully in their education programs so they can reach their potential and be successful at learning. The type of service varies in different regions of the province. Check the website to learn more about services in your area.

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## CALGARY AND AREA

**Calgary Board of Education (CBE),  
 School Support Services**  
 (403) 777-7964  
[www.cbe.ab.ca](http://www.cbe.ab.ca)

Vision strategists provide functional vision assessments, educational consultation, braille instruction, orientation and mobility and in-classroom support.

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**Calgary Quest Children's Society**  
 (403) 253-0003

Provides a variety of services to children with special needs.

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## 3 Education / School Based Services (CONT'D)

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### Christine Meikle School

(403) 777-6770

*www.cbe.ab.ca/b037/*

Offers an educational program for youth (ages 12 – 19) with severe disabilities.

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### Emily Follensbee Centre

(403) 777-6980

*www.cbe.ab.ca/036/*

Offers an educational program for students with special needs. Services are available to students preschool – 12 years.

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### Regional Educational Assessment & Consultation Services (REACH)

(403) 777-6983

*www.reachservices.ab.ca*

Provides educational support services to students with special needs in southern Alberta. REACH provides consultation and assessment to schools in the areas of audiology, and orientation and mobility skills. Additional multi-disciplinary therapies are also accessible.

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### Renfrew Educational Services

(403) 291-5038

*www.renfreweducation.org*

Offers therapy services in an integrated school environment for students. Programs include: junior

kindergarten, ECS, grades 1 – 6, intensive behavioural intervention for children with autism and intensive therapeutic intervention for children with neuro-motor disorders.

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### The Third Academy

*e-mail: info@thirdacademy.com*

Creates a well balanced, individualized, integrated and intensive program for each student, designed to prepare them for re-entry into their community as quickly as possible.

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### Vision Resource Network Calgary

#### Captain John Palliser School

(403) 777-7967 ext.2477

*e-mail: jenorthcott@cbe.ab.ca*

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## EDMONTON AND AREA

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### Edmonton Student Health Initiative Partnership

(ESHIP), Capital Health

(780) 429-8522

*www.capitalhealth.ab.ca*

Provides assessment and treatment services for students in kindergarten – grade 12 who have exceptional health needs. ESHIP offers consultation and educational programs with school staff and parents.

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## 3 Education / School Based Services (CONT'D)

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### Edmonton Regional Educational Consulting Services (ERECS)

(780) 429-8050

*www.consultingservices.epsb.net*

Consultants provide interdisciplinary assessment, consultation and in-services to address the educational needs of students (ages 2½ – 20 years) in northern Alberta who have severe disabilities and meet the eligibility coding requirements. Services may include: educational and functional vision assessments, multi-disciplinary referrals, consultation services to schools and community agencies, liaison with parents and medical community, beginning orientation and mobility skills, and pre-braille skills and braille transcription service.

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### Educational Consultants for the Sensory Impaired (ECSI)

(780) 464-5809

Consulting company providing educational assessments, program planning and evaluation activities for individuals with a sensory impairment. Technical aids training and educational in-services are also available. Other professionals may be accessed through ECSI in addition to hearing and vision consultants.

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### Elves Special Needs Society

(780) 454-5310

*www.elves-society.com*

Elves Child Development Centre provides an educational program delivered by a multi-disciplinary team for people aged 2½ – 20 years who are severely developmentally delayed and/or medically fragile.

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### Success By 6

(780) 990-1000

*www.unitedthisistheway.com/successby6.htm*

Success By 6 is a prevention initiative intended to ensure that all children in Edmonton have the necessary child development and support. Program partners of Success By 6 include: Classroom on Wheels, Healthy Families, The Centre for Family Literacy, Success By 6 Community Team, Champions For Kids.

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## NORTHERN ALBERTA

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### Edmonton Regional Educational Consulting Services

(780) 429-8050

*www.consultingservices.epsb.net*

Consultants provide interdisciplinary assessment, consultation and in-services to address the educational needs of students (ages 2½ – 20 years) in northern and central Alberta who have severe disabilities and meet the

*continued*

## 3 Education / School Based Services (CONT'D)

eligibility coding requirements. Services may include: educational and functional vision assessments, multi-disciplinary referrals, consultation services to schools and community agencies, liaison with parents and medical community, beginning orientation and mobility skills and pre-braille skills and braille transcription service.

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### **Educational Consultants for the Sensory Impaired (ECSI)**

(780) 464-5809

Consulting company providing educational assessments, program planning and evaluation activities for individuals with a sensory impairment. Technical aids training and educational in-services are also available. Other professionals may be accessed through ECSI in addition to hearing and vision consultants.

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### **Grande Prairie Assessment Team, Crystal Park School**

(780) 473-5616

*www.gppsd.ab.ca/cpark*

Provides educational assessments and professional services to students (ages 3 – 20) in northern Alberta (excluding Fort McMurray) who fit the mandate in one of the three areas: sensory impairments, severe behaviour disorders, or severe communication disorders. Children must meet the Alberta Learning Severe Disability Criteria to access services. The multi-disciplinary team provides ongoing assessment, treatment and educational

programming designed to meet the individual learning and developmental needs of the child.

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## **CENTRAL ALBERTA**

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### **Edmonton Regional Educational Consulting Services**

(780) 429-8050

*www.consultingservices.epsb.net*

Consultants provide interdisciplinary assessment, consultation and in-services to address the educational needs of students (ages 2½ – 20 years) in northern Alberta who have severe disabilities and meet the eligibility coding requirements. Services may include: educational and functional vision assessments, multi-disciplinary referrals, consultation services to schools and community agencies, liaison with parents and medical community, beginning orientation and mobility skills, and pre-braille skills and braille transcription service.

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### **Educational Consultants for the Sensory Impaired (ECSI)**

(780) 464-5809

Consulting company providing educational assessments, program planning and evaluation activities for individuals with a sensory impairment. Technical aids training and educational in-services are also available. Other professionals may be accessed through ECSI in addition to hearing and vision consultants.

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**Regional Educational Assessment & Consultation  
Services (REACH)**

(403) 777-6983

*[www.reachservices.ab.ca](http://www.reachservices.ab.ca)*

Provides educational support services to students with special needs in southern Alberta. REACH provides consultation and assessment to schools in the areas of audiology and orientation and mobility skills. Additional multi-disciplinary therapies are also accessible.

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**SOUTHERN ALBERTA**

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**Regional Educational Assessment & Consultation  
Services (REACH)**

(403) 777-6983

*[www.reachservices.ab.ca](http://www.reachservices.ab.ca)*

Provides educational support services to students with special needs in southern Alberta. REACH provides consultation and assessment to schools in the areas of audiology, and orientation and mobility skills. Additional multi-disciplinary therapies are also accessible.



# 4 Recreation

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## PROVINCE-WIDE

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### Alberta Special Olympics

(780) 415-0719

*www.specialolympics.ab.ca*

Provides recreation opportunities for people with disabilities.

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### Alberta Sport and Recreation Association for the Blind (ASRAB)

(403) 262-5332

*www.asrab.ab.ca*

Provides sport and recreation opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired.

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### Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing

Canada (613) 842-5223

Calgary (403) 286-8050

Edmonton (780) 427-8104

*www.disabledskiing.ca* or *www.cadsalberta.ca*

The Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing is a volunteer-based organization having as its main objective assisting individuals with a disability to lead richer and fuller lives through active participation in recreational and competitive snow-skiing and snowboarding.

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### Canadian Blind Sports Association

(604) 419-0480

*www.canadianblindsports.ca*

Provides sporting and recreation opportunities, including goalball, for people who are blind and visually impaired.

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### National Camps for the Blind

(780) 658-2292

*www.crsblindservices.ca*

Offers an annual summer Christian camp in Alberta for people who are legally blind, ages 9 and up.

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### William Watson Lodge, Kananaskis

(403) 591-7227

*www.cd.gov.ab.ca/enjoying\_alberta/parks/featured/kananaskis/facilities\_wwlodge.asp*

Provides year-round accommodation for Albertans with a disability. Offers accessible cottages, campsites, picnic sites, accessible trails and other outdoor activity opportunities.

## 4 Recreation (CONT'D)

### CALGARY AND AREA

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**Canadian Association of Disabled Skiers – CADS Alberta  
(formerly known as The Alberta Amputee Ski Association  
or The Alberta Association of Disabled Skiers)**

(403) 286-8050

*www.cadsalberta.ca*

Provides ski and snowboard lessons at Calgary Olympic Park for persons with disabilities.

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**Calgary Between Friends Club**

(403) 269-9133

*www.betweenfriends.ab.ca*

Provides social and recreation opportunities for children and youth with disabilities in an accepting environment.

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**Calgary Parks and Recreation, Resource Services for  
People with Disabilities**

(403) 268-4718

*www.calgaryparks-rec.com*

Services available include: information dissemination/referral services, liaison/consultation services, leadership training workshops, public education and awareness, accessibility information, resource persons and program information, integration resource services, and co-sponsorship assistance.

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**Calgary Special Olympics**

(403) 735-1022

*www.calgaryspecialolympics.ab.ca*

Offers a wide range of recreation opportunities for children and adults with disabilities.

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**Resource Services for People with Disabilities (RSPD),  
Calgary Parks and Recreation**

(403) 268-5213

*www.calgaryparks-rec.com*

Provides recreation opportunities for people with disabilities in Calgary.

## 4 Recreation (CONT'D)

### EDMONTON AND AREA

#### AdaptAbilities

(780) 431-8446

*www.adaptabilities.ca*

Offers structured programs with a variety of activities (swimming, bicycling, skating, soccer, etc).

#### Brail Tone Music Society of Canada

(780) 448-1807

Provides funding for music lessons and for the purchase of musical instruments that are loaned to students. Programs are available for individuals with vision impairments.

#### Camp Health, Hope and Happiness

(780) 429-3277

*www.camphehoha.com*

Provides an outdoor education program for people with disabilities.

#### Community Services Department, City of Edmonton Special Needs Community Recreation Coordinator

(780) 496-4917

*www.edmonton.ca*

The City of Edmonton provides various recreation activities and most facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

#### ACT Aquatic and Recreation Centre

(780) 496-1497

*www.edmonton.ca*

Operated by the City of Edmonton, the ACT offers programs specifically designed for individuals with disabilities.

#### Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association

(780) 476-1233

*www.littlebits.ca*

Offers therapeutic horseback riding for children and adults with a disability.

#### Paralympic Sports Association

(780) 439-8687

*www.parasports.net*

Programs are available to anyone with a physical disability. Programs include: adapted floor hockey, canasta club, Fun for Kids group, sledge hockey, wheelchair square dancing, swimming, soccer kids, and teen group.



# 5 Advocacy

## PROVINCE-WIDE

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### Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB)

1-877-304-0968

*www.ccbnational.net*

A national consumer advocacy group for blind and visually impaired individuals.

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### Canadian Deafblind and Rubella Association (CDBRA)

*www.cdbra.ca*

Assists persons who are deafblind to achieve, with Intervention, the best quality of life.

## CALGARY AND AREA

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### Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired (ASVI)

(403) 234-0293

*www.asvicalgary.com*

Volunteer organization with a primary focus on advocacy for visually impaired children and their families. The board consists of service providers and parents. ASVI's activities/objectives include: public awareness, advocacy for parents, raising money to purchase adaptive technology for children, sponsorship and coordination of workshops and conferences for service providers and families, organizing educational and recreational activities for families.

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### The Children's Link Society

(403) 230-9158

*www.childrenslink.ca*

Works to empower and support families of children with special needs.

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### Community Coordinating Council for Children with Special Needs

(403) 230-9158

*www.cccforcsn.ca*

Works to influence policy and regulations in children's services, health, and education to ensure that all children with special needs and their families have fair and equitable access to needed supports.

*continued*

# 5 Advocacy (CONT'D)

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## EDMONTON AND AREA

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### **Alberta Association for Community Living**

(780) 451-3055

*www.aacl.org*

Advocates on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in support of community inclusion (education, employment, family support, and community living).

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### **Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired (ASVI)**

(Call CNIB at (780) 453-8345  
for current telephone contact)

*www.asviedmonton.org*

Volunteer organization with a primary focus on advocacy for visually impaired children and their families. The board consists of service providers and parents. ASVI's activities/objectives include: public awareness, advocacy for parents, raising funds to purchase adaptive technology for children, sponsorship and coordination of workshops and conferences for service providers and families, and organize educational and recreational activities for families.

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### **City of Edmonton Advisory Board on Services for Persons with Disabilities**

(780) 496-5822

*www.edmonton.ca/disability*

Reports to and advises City Council on issues, needs and services related to persons with disabilities.

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### **Gateway Association for Community Living**

(780) 454-0701

*www.compusmart.ab.ca/gacl*

Provides support and advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

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### **Parent Advocates Linking Special Services (P.A.L.S.S.)**

**Fort Saskatchewan**

(780) 992-6175 / 998-7167

Offers parent support and advocacy for families with children with special needs.

# 6 Health

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## PROVINCE-WIDE

**Health Link Alberta**  
1-866-408-LINK (5465)

Health Link is a 24-hour telephone health advice service answered by registered nurses.

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## CALGARY AND AREA

**Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH)**  
(403) 229-7211  
[www.calgaryhealthregion.ca](http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca)

Provides emergency, in-patient, and out-patient services to infants, children and youth. Specialty programs and out-patient clinics are located at this site, including Augmentative Communication and Educational Technology Service (ACETS).

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**Calgary Health Region**  
(403) 943-5465 (LINK)  
[www.calgaryhealthregion.ca](http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca)

Calgary Regional Health Authority offers a variety of health-related services and programs at local hospital sites and in the community. The LINK line provides health information or advice about any Calgary Regional Health Authority service or program.

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**Foothills Medical Centre**  
(403) 944-1110  
[www.calgaryhealthregion.ca](http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca)

Offers several programs and services for children including the neonatal intensive care unit.

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**Peter Lougheed Centre**  
(403) 943-4555  
[www.calgaryhealthregion.ca](http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca)

Offers several programs and services for children including: behavioural development, neonatal intensive care unit and child health inpatient unit.

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**Rockyview Hospital Low Vision Clinic**  
(403) 943-3720  
[www.calgaryhealthregion.ca](http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca)

Specializes in low vision enhancement aids and prescription eyeglasses.

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## EDMONTON AND AREA

**Capital Health Region**  
(780) 408-5465 (LINK)  
[www.capitalhealth.ca](http://www.capitalhealth.ca)

Capital Health offers a variety of health-related services and programs at local hospital sites and in the community. The Capital Health LINK 24-hour line

*continued*

## 6 Health (CONT'D)

provides health information or advice about any Capital Health service or program.

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### **Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital**

(780) 735-7999

*www.capitalhealth.ca*

Offers several programs and services for children including: 1-2-3 Go, early language intervention program, early intervention treatment program, neonatal follow up clinic, preschool learning and intervention program (PLAI) and school rehabilitation services.

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### **ICAN Centre – Assistive Devices Centre, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital**

(780) 735-6070

*www.capitalhealth.ca*

Assists people with disabilities to actively participate in the world around them by helping to find the right tools and technology for mobility, computer access, communication, or control of the environment.

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### **Royal Alexandra Hospital**

(780) 735-4111

*www.capitalhealth.ca*

Provides a range of health-related services and programs including: general pediatrics clinic, neurodevelopmental program, neonatal intensive care unit, rehabilitation services, and ophthalmology services.

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### **Royal Alexandra Vision Centre**

(780) 471-4700

*www.capitalhealth.ca*

Provides low vision assessments and follow-up by an ophthalmologist and other low vision professionals.

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### **Stollery Children's Hospital**

(780) 407-8822

*www.capitalhealth.ca*

Provides a range of health services to children including emergency medicine, neonatal intensive care program, pediatric intensive care program and pediatric surgery.

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## **NORTHERN ALBERTA**

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### **Aspen Regional Health Authority**

(780) 349-8705

*www.aspenrha.ab.ca*

Provides a variety of health-related programs and services for children and their families.

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### **Health Link Northern Alberta**

1-866-408-LINK (5465)

Health Link is a 24-hour a day telephone health advice service answered by registered nurses.

## 6 Health (CONT'D)

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### Peace Country Health

(780) 538-5387

*www.pchr.ca*

Provides a variety of health-related programs and services for children and their families.

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### Northern Lights Health Region

(780) 791-6024

*www.nlhr.ca*

Provides a variety of health-related programs and services for children and their families.

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### Westlock Independence Network (WIN)

(780) 349-5388

*www.winab.org*

A variety of support services are available for people with disabilities.

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## CENTRAL ALBERTA

### David Thompson Regional Health Authority

(403) 341-8622

*www.dthr.ab.ca*

Provides a variety of health-related programs and services for children and their families.

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### East Central Health

(780) 608-8800

*www.eastcentralhealth.com*

Provides a variety of health-related programs and services for children and their families.

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### Health Link Southern Alberta

1-866-408-LINK (5465)

Health Link is a 24-hour-a-day telephone health advice service answered by registered nurses.

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## SOUTHERN ALBERTA

### CARE Services, Lethbridge

(403) 329-5255

*www.chr.ab.ca*

Children's Community Assessment, Rehabilitation and Education Services (CARE) is a multi-disciplinary team that provides rehabilitation services and early intervention support to children with special health needs and their families. Services are available for children 0 – 18 years of age.

## 6 Health (CONT'D)

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### **Chinook Regional Health Authority**

(403) 381-4636

*www.chr.ab.ca*

Offers a variety of services for children. The 24-hour information line provides health information about regional health services or programs.

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### **Health Link Southern Alberta**

1-866-408-LINK (5465)

Health Link is a 24-hour telephone health advice service answered by registered nurses.

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### **Palliser Health Region**

(403) 502-8200 Medicine Hat

(403) 501-3300 Brooks

(403) 545-2296 Bow Island

(403) 664-6351 Oyen

*www.palliserhealth.ca*

A wide range of community health services are available through the Palliser Health Authority.

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### **Children's Health and Developmental Services (CHADS),**

### **Palliser Health Authority**

(403) 529-8966

*www.palliserhealth.ca*

Identification, assessment and clinical treatment of young children who have emotional or behavioural problems, developmental delays or disabilities. Services are provided by various disciplines.

# 7 Funding Sources (Non-Profit)

## PROVINCE-WIDE

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### President's Choice Children's Charity

Toll-Free: 1-888-495-5111

[www.presidentschoice.ca/childrenscharity/default.aspx](http://www.presidentschoice.ca/childrenscharity/default.aspx)

Helps to grant wishes to children who are chronically and terminally ill in Alberta.

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### The Rainbow Society of Alberta

Calgary: (403) 252-3891

Edmonton: (780) 469-3306

[www.rainbowsociety.ab.ca](http://www.rainbowsociety.ab.ca)

Helps to grant wishes to children who are chronically and terminally ill in Alberta.

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### Sunshine Dreams for Kids

1-800-461-7935

[www.sunshine.ca](http://www.sunshine.ca)

Facilitates "dreams" for children ages 3 – 19 who are challenged by severe physical disabilities or life-threatening illnesses.

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### The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada

(905) 426-5656 or 1-800-267-9474

[www.childrenswish.ca](http://www.childrenswish.ca)

Provides once-in-a-lifetime experiences for children suffering from high risk, life-threatening illnesses.

## NORTHERN ALBERTA

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### The Children's Ability Fund

(780) 454-9191

[www.childrensabilityfund.ab.ca](http://www.childrensabilityfund.ab.ca)

Provides funding throughout northern Alberta for specialized equipment to enhance the independence of people with disabilities. Funding is based on financial need.

## EDMONTON AND AREA

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### CFRN Good Neighbour Fund

(780) 486-9215

[www.informedmonton.com/public/agency/1994.htm](http://www.informedmonton.com/public/agency/1994.htm)

Registered charitable organization that provides limited financial resources or assistance to individuals in Edmonton, Central and Northern Alberta, including individuals who have "fallen through the cracks" and are not covered by other funding.



# 8 Other Community Services

## CALGARY AND AREA

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### Access Calgary (Transportation)

(403) 537-7770

*www.calgarytransit.com*

Provides handi-bus and special needs taxi.

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### Calgary Family Connections Society

North/West (403) 288-8111

South/East (403) 235-2253

*www.calgaryfamilyconnection.ca*

Offers family resource centres, parents as teachers programs, toy lending libraries, and parenting programs in collaboration with community agencies.

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### The Children's Link Society

(403) 230-9158

*www.childrenslink.ca*

A central and primary source of information for families with special needs in the Calgary area. The Children's Link Society provides information about supports, services, respite options, treatments and programs for children with special needs and their families.

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### Closer to Home Community Services

(403) 543-0550

*www.closetohome.com*

Operates programs that support families in their own communities.

### The Developmental Disabilities

#### Resource Centre of Calgary

(403) 240-3111

*www.ddrcc.com*

Provides programs and services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

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### Independent Living Resource Centre of Calgary

(403) 263-6880

*www.ilrcc.ab.ca*

Self-help organization for people of any age with a disability and their families. The ILRCC offers information and referrals, peer support, individual advocacy, and independent living skills support.

## EDMONTON AND AREA

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### AdaptAbilities

(780) 431-8446

*www.adaptabilities.ca*

A parent relief program that provides support for families who have children with special needs.

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### Community Service Referral Line

(780) 482-INFO (4636)

*www.thesupportnetwork.com*

Provides information about various services available throughout the Edmonton area.

*continued*

## 8 Other Community Services (CONT'D)

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### The Hope Foundation

(780) 492-1222

*www.ualberta.ca/hope*

Offers confidential and professional counselling which focuses on hope while exploring personal issues.

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### Kids Kottage Foundation

(780) 448-1752 or 24 hour Crisis Line (780) 944-2888

*www.kidskottage.org*

24-hour crisis nursery; support to families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

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### Prairie Crocus Respite Care Ltd.

(780) 433-2691

Provides respite and support to children with temporary or permanent disabilities and their caregivers.

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### Robin Hood Association

(780) 467-7140

*www.robinhoodassoc.com*

Family support programs include in-home relief, aide assistance in daycare or recreational settings, buddies for teens, and host families. Summer recreation programming provides social and recreational activities to children with special needs. Other services may include: home visits, connection to community resources, and playgroups.

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### Rosecrest

(780) 427-0927

Provides nursing, developmental and educational programming for medically fragile multi-handicapped

children, ages 3 months – 12 years, and provides respite services to families.

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### SKILLS

(780) 496-9686

*www.skillsedm.com*

Offers services to people with disabilities of all ages. Services include: family support and respite (Woodcroft Relief Services), outreach services, and residential services.

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### The Support Network

(780) 482-4357 (Distress Line)

(780) 482-4636 (Info/Referral)

*www.thesupportnetwork.com*

Offers personal and family counselling, and provides information and support services to families in need.

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### Transitions

(780) 458-7371

*www.transitions-ab.org*

Provides supports and services to people with disabilities and their families in the St. Albert area.

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### YWCA – Family Support Service

(780) 423-9922

*www.ywcaofedmonton.org*

Provides individualized support to families caring for a person with a disability when a high level of support has been identified by the referring agency.

# 9 Post-Secondary Institutions

Post-secondary institutions across Alberta offer specialized services and supports for students with disabilities.

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**Athabasca University, Athabasca**  
 Coordinator of Access for Students with Disabilities,  
 (780) 497-3424  
[www.athabascau.ca](http://www.athabascau.ca)

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**Augustana University College, Camrose**  
 Student Services, (780) 679-1181  
[www.augustana.ab.ca](http://www.augustana.ab.ca)

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**Bow Valley College, Calgary**  
 Learning Resources Services, (403) 410-1640  
[www.bowvalleycollege.ca](http://www.bowvalleycollege.ca)

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**Grande Prairie Regional College, Grande Prairie**  
 Students' Resource Coordinator, (780) 539-2062  
[www.gprc.ab.ca](http://www.gprc.ab.ca)

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**MacEwan College, Edmonton**  
 Services to Students with Disabilities, (780) 497-5811  
[www.macewan.ca](http://www.macewan.ca)

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**Lethbridge Community College, Lethbridge**  
 Services for Students with Disabilities, (403) 329-7268  
[www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca](http://www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca)

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**Medicine Hat College, Medicine Hat**  
 Special Needs Coordinator, (403) 529-3819  
[www.mhc.ab.ca](http://www.mhc.ab.ca)

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**Mount Royal College, Calgary**  
 Disability Services for Physical and Sensory Disabilities,  
 (403) 240-6491  
[www.mtroyal.ab.ca](http://www.mtroyal.ab.ca)

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**Norquest College, Edmonton**  
 Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator,  
 (780) 427-5467  
[www.norquest.ab.ca](http://www.norquest.ab.ca)

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**Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)  
 Edmonton**  
 Services to Students with Disabilities Coordinator,  
 (780) 471-8921  
[www.nait.ca](http://www.nait.ca)

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**Red Deer College, Red Deer**  
 Coordinator of Disability Services, (403) 342-3165  
[www.rdc.ab.ca](http://www.rdc.ab.ca)

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**Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), Calgary**  
 Services to Students with Disabilities Coordinator,  
 (403) 284-8125  
[www.sait.ca](http://www.sait.ca)

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**University of Alberta, Edmonton**  
Specialized Support and Disability Services  
(780) 492-3381  
*www.ualberta.ca*

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**University of Calgary, Calgary**  
Disability Resource Centre, (403) 220-8237  
*www.ucalgary.ca*

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**University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge**  
Counselling Centre, (403) 320-5700  
*www.uleth.ca*

*\* The Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities, (780) 488-9088, has developed a publication entitled, "Resource Guide for Post Secondary Students with Disabilities". This guide contains information about post-secondary institutions, transition planning and funding. See [www.accd.net](http://www.accd.net).*

# 10 Government of Alberta Programs & Services

The Government of Alberta provides an array of services, only some of which are listed below. For more comprehensive information regarding Government of Alberta resources and services, call the toll-free government RITE line at 310-0000 or visit the website: [www.gov.ab.ca](http://www.gov.ab.ca) or [www.servicealberta.ca](http://www.servicealberta.ca).

## 1. Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) (780) 427-0731

AADL assists Albertans with a chronic disability or illness maintain independence in their home or home-like setting through the provision of medical equipment and/or supplies to best meet the client's basic needs.

Through AADL, the CNIB/STEP program provides low vision, low-tech, and high-tech aids to blind, visually impaired, and deafblind people of all ages. The STEP high technical program component requires an application as well as an assessment process.

Clients cost-share 25 percent of the total cost of benefit up to a maximum of \$500.00 per family. Low-income individuals are exempt. Contact CNIB for STEP information.

## 2. Alberta Children's Services – Children & Family Service Authorities

Within the Province of Alberta, 18 Child and Family Service Authorities (CFSAs) operate under the leadership

of a local community board. The members of those boards are chosen from the community and appointed by the Minister of Children's Services. CFSAs are Government of Alberta employees and report to the Authority through the Chief Executive Officer. These Authorities also contract with community-based agencies for the provision of services.

To reach any of the regional CFSAs toll-free, call 310-0000 and enter the number you are calling. You can also visit [www.child.gov.ab.ca/cfsa/page.cfm?pg=index](http://www.child.gov.ab.ca/cfsa/page.cfm?pg=index) and then click on "Regional Authorities" on the right side of the page to be directed to individual CFSAs.

### Provincial Toll-Free Child Disability Resource Link

1-866-346-4661

### Family Support for Children with Disabilities

Calgary: (403) 297-6677

Edmonton: (780) 427-4354

Grande Prairie: (780) 538-5597

High Level: (780) 926-4441

Lethbridge: (403) 382-4275

Peace River: (780) 624-6460

Red Deer: (403) 340-5478

Spruce Grove: (780) 962-7635

Resources for Children with Disabilities (RCD) provides assistance to families with a child who has a disability

*continued*

# 10 Government of Alberta Programs & Services (CONT'D)

and supports these families through some of the extraordinary demands resulting from their child's disability. Services may include:

- Assisting the family in determining the needs that may arise from the child's disabilities
- Individual counselling or psychology services
- Providing information on and referral to appropriate community resources (medical, educational, treatment, rehabilitative)
- Coordinating services assistance where required with other services and benefits
- Family support services, including respite, sibling care, aide, and homemaking services
- Assisting with transportation costs, medications, and accommodation benefits as required for the child's disability-related medical care needs
- Providing financial support, including dental/orthodontic services, prescription drug and ambulance benefits, prescribed dietary requirements, daycare supports, exceptional clothing needs, and out-of-home supports.

## **Alberta Child and Youth Initiative (ACYI)**

ACYI is a partnering of provincial ministries and regional authorities in order to work together on behalf of children, youth and families. Some of the initiatives that are part of ACYI are:

Children's Mental Health (780) 917-4112

Student Health Initiative (780) 427-3429

Early Childhood Development (780) 415-6135  
or 415-2844

## **3. Alberta Human Resources & Employment – The Alberta Child Health Benefit (780) 427-6848**

Free health benefits for children in low-income families.

## **4. Alberta Human Rights Commission (780) 427-7661**

*www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca*

Fosters equality and works to reduce discrimination.

## **5. Alberta Education**

### **Alberta Education, Main Office**

(780) 427-7219

*www.learning.gov.ab.ca*

### **Alberta Schools and School Boards**

*www.learning.gov.ab.ca/ei/maps*

### **Alberta School Act, Queen's Printer**

(780) 427-4952 in Edmonton or (403) 297-6251 in Calgary

### **Program Unit Funding (PUF), Special Programs Branch**

Toll-Free 310-0000 in Alberta, (780) 422-6326  
in Edmonton

*continued*

# 10

## Government of Alberta Programs & Services (CONT'D)

Program Unit Funding is available to children with severe disabilities who require additional support beyond what is offered in a typical preschool or kindergarten program. This funding is provided directly to approved ECS operators, is available for a maximum of 3 years, and the child must be between the ages of 2½ years and 6 years.

### **Grades 1 – 12 Funding for Students with Severe Disabilities**

Special Programs Branch, (780) 422-6326 in Edmonton

Students with severe disabilities are eligible for additional funding. This funding may be used to access services or supports such as frequent specialized one-to-one instruction, adaptive equipment, consulting services from an educational specialist for the visually impaired, orientation and mobility services, and so forth.

### **Materials Resource Unit**

(780) 427-4681

*[www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/visual\\_imp/visual\\_imp\\_index.htm](http://www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/visual_imp/visual_imp_index.htm)*

The Materials Resource Unit (MRU) for the Visually Impaired loans alternate format resources (braille, large print, audiotape), kits, specialized equipment and professional resources to Alberta schools. In addition, the MRU offers a student equipment loan service that allows schools to borrow equipment such as brailers, braille notetakers, talking and large print calculators and closed circuit televisions.

## **6. Alberta Transportation**

### **Disabled Parking**

(780) 427-7013

Through an application process, parking placards for persons with disabilities are available.

## **7. Alberta Municipal Affairs**

### **Home Adaptation Program**

(780) 422-5760

*[www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca](http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca)*

Provides grants to modify existing homes for permanent changes that will improve access to and mobility within the home.



# 11 Government of Canada Programs & Services

The federal government offers several programs and services for children and their families. For a complete listing of such programs and services or for additional information, contact 1-800-622-6232 or visit *www.canada.gc.ca*.

A few programs to highlight are ...

### **Disability Tax Credit**

**1-800-959-8281**

If you support a child with a disability, you may be able to claim a tax credit. This credit is for people who have a severe and prolonged mental or physical impairment.

### **Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities**

**1-800-668-2642**

This program helps homeowners and landlords make homes more accessible to children or adults with disabilities.



# 12 Additional Resources & Items of Interest

## ACCESSIBLE READING MATERIAL/ SPECIALIZED PRODUCTS

There are many companies that develop and market accessible books, toys, games, etc. The following list contains just a few of these companies.

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### Ablenet

1-800-322-0956

*www.ablenetinc.com*

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### American Printing House for the Blind

1-800-223-1839

*www.aph.org*

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### American Foundation for the Blind

1-800-232-5463

*www.afb.org*

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### Audible Books

1-888-283-5051

*www.audible.com*

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### Braille Bookstore

1-800-987-1231

*www.braillebookstore.com*

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### Braille International Inc.

1-772-286-8366

*www.brailleintl.org*

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**CNIB Library: 1-800-268-8818**

Salesroom – call your local CNIB

*www.cnib.ca*

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### Enabling Devices

1-800-832-8697

*www.enablingdevices.com*

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### Exceptional Teaching Aids

1-800-549-6999

*www.exceptionalteaching.com*

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### Flaghouse

1-800-793-7900

*www.flaghouse.com*

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### Independent Living Aids

1-800-537-2118

*www.independentliving.com*

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### The Large Print Bookshop

(303) 721-7511

*http://users.aol.com/largeprint*

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### National Braille Factory

1-877-827-2455

*www.nationalbraillefactory.com*

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### National Braille Press

1-888-965-8965

*www.nbp.org*

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# 12 Additional Resources & Items of Interest (CONT'D)

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## Recordings for the Blind

1-866-732-3585  
[www.rfbd.org](http://www.rfbd.org)

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## Seedlings – Braille Books for Children

1-800-777-8552  
[www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org)

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## Voiceprint (news and information audio service)

1-800-567-6755  
[www.voiceprintcanada.ca](http://www.voiceprintcanada.ca)

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## WGBH Media Access Group, Descriptive Video Service

(617) 300-5400  
[access.wgbh.org](http://access.wgbh.org)

## PARENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

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### Association of Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)

1-877-492-2708  
[www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)

Professional association dedicated to the advancement of education and rehabilitation of blind and visually impaired children and adults.

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## Hadley School for the Blind

1-800-323-4238  
[www.hadley-school.org](http://www.hadley-school.org)

Offers tuition-free distance education courses for family members and professionals interested in pursuing learning opportunities. Courses include: Introduction to Braille; Learning, Play and Toys; Self-Esteem and Adjusting to Blindness; Child Development; Social Skills; Raising Responsible Children; Improve Your Child's O&M Skills; and more.

**M**any schools and programs for students who are blind and visually impaired offer valuable resources. A few schools to note are listed below:

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## Oregon School for the Blind

(503) 378-3820  
[www.ode.state.or.us/osb](http://www.ode.state.or.us/osb)

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## Perkins School for the Blind

(617) 924-3434  
[www.perkins.org](http://www.perkins.org)

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## Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

1-800-872-5273  
[www.tsbvi.edu](http://www.tsbvi.edu)

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## Visually Impaired Preschool Services, Kentucky

1-888-636-VIPS  
[www.vips.org](http://www.vips.org)

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# 12

## Additional Resources & Items of Interest (CONT'D)

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**W. Ross McDonald School**  
(519) 759-0730

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For additional links to schools for students who are blind in the United States, go to [www.tsbvi.edu/othersites.htm](http://www.tsbvi.edu/othersites.htm).

### ADDITIONAL GUIDES AND DIRECTORIES

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**Alberta Education, Special Programs Branch /  
Learning Resources Centre**  
(780) 427-5775

The Learning Resources Centre develops and distributes a number of handbooks containing information relevant to education in Alberta.

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**Directory of Community Services (Edmonton area)**  
(780) 482-4636

Comprehensive listing of human service organizations in northern Alberta.

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**Calgary Community Services Directory**  
(403) 268-4656

Provides an extensive list of human services and programs in the Calgary area.

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**Connections: A Guide to Programs, Services and  
Resources for Albertans with Disabilities**  
(780) 422-1095 or toll-free 1-800-272-8841

Developed by The Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

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**Direct Access: Greater Edmonton's Disability Resource  
Directory**  
(780) 423-4106

Developed by EmployAbilities, this directory contains information about government services, service organizations and community information.

