

Early Identification and Intervention Services for Preschool Children in Toronto - Next Steps

Date: October 8, 2021

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The confidential attachments to this report relate to a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on, or to be carried on by, or on behalf of, the City of Toronto or the Board of Health.

SUMMARY

Early identification and intervention of hearing loss, impaired vision and communication delays can improve the trajectory for a child's development and can directly influence later academic accomplishments, health, wellbeing and quality of life.

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services provides 100 percent funding across the province for the provision of the Blind-Low Vision Program, Infant Hearing Program, and Preschool Speech and Language Program for the purpose of establishing an integrated, community-based system of early identification and intervention services for preschool children and their families.

This report provides an update on an opportunity to improve child health and development outcomes by strengthening early identification and intervention services for preschool children and their families in Toronto.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health direct that Confidential Attachments 1 and 2 to this report remain confidential, as they relate to a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on, or to be carried on by, or on behalf of, the City of Toronto or the Board of Health.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of October 19, 2020, the Board of Health adopted Item HL22.2 "Early Identification and Intervention Services for Preschool Children in Toronto" and adopted confidential instructions to staff in Confidential Attachment 1 to the report (October 4, 2020) from the Medical Officer of Health, as amended by the Board of Health.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.HL22.2>

COMMENTS

Program Descriptions

The Blind-Low Vision Program provides family support, clinical coordination and intervention services to families with children from birth to 6 years of age, who are blind or have low-vision.

The Infant Hearing Program provides coordination and delivery of the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program to all infants born in Toronto. Services also include, audiology diagnostic, surveillance and family support to deaf and hard of hearing children from birth to 6 years of age.

The Preschool Speech and Language Program provides early identification and intervention services to preschool children who experience challenges with their speech, language and early literacy development.

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SIGNATURE

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1
Confidential Attachment 2