INCLUSION RESOURCE SERVICE MODEL A Coordinated, Collaborative, Inclusive Approach



The IRSM launched in January 2026 and focuses on three tiers of support. It reflects a commitment to an inclusive early learning and child care system where all children belong, participate and thrive.

A Continuum of Support

Tier 1
Universal Support

Universal supports and proactive strategies for all children, educators and centres. Focused on building capacity, promoting inclusion, and strengthening high-quality environments for all children.

Examples: Professional learning, resource library and materials, coaching, environmental strategies, inclusive practices, quality development tool.

Tier 2
Targeted Support

Short-term, targeted strategies, tools, and resources to support goal achievement within a defined timeframe while strengthening educator capacity and promoting meaningful participation in the program for children.

Examples: Small group strategies, skill building, behaviour guidance, social skills support, consultations, targeted resources.

Tier 3
Specialized Support

Increased support for children and educators through customized strategies developed collaboratively with families and community partners.

Examples: Increased community collaboration to support successful placements, increased coaching and education for educators, customized professional learning.

Working Together for Inclusive, High-Quality Early Years and Child Care Services

The IRSM brings together specialized roles and community partners to support children, families, and early learning environments across Niagara.

Belonging
All children feel they belong.

Inclusion
Every child is included.

Quality
High-quality environments support all children.

Collaboration
Stronger together for better outcomes.

IRSM ROLES AND PARTNERS Working Together Across Niagara to Support Inclusion

The IRSM is a collaborative system with specialized roles and partners who work together to provide coordinated, tiered supports to early learning programs, educators, children and families.



Niagara Region

Service System Manager

Leads the vision, invests in the system and ensures a coordinated, inclusive and high-quality early years and child care system.



Inclusion Quality Coordinators (IQCs)

Employed at Bethesda or Niagara Children's Centre

Work directly with all child care and EarlyON centres to provide Tier 1, 2 and 3 support based on the needs of children, educators and environments.

Key Focus

- On-site coaching and consultation
- Inclusion-focused strategies
- Resource connection
- Tiered support for children and educators



Community Pedagogical Advisors (CPAs)

Employed at Niagara Region

Support a designated caseload of child care centres across Niagara. Administer the quality development tool and support IQCs in delivering consistent, high-quality supports.

Key Focus

- Administer quality development tool
- Provide Tier 1 recommendations
- Build centre capacity
- Work in collaboration with IQCs



Behaviour Consultants

Employed at Pathstone

Provide targeted consultation and intensive, individualized early years mental health support for children within Tier 2 and Tier 3 caseloads.

Key Focus

- Individualized consultation and strategies
- Consultation and planning with teams



Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC)

Community Capacity Builder

Supports educators and centres through professional learning, resource library materials/kits, and customized trainings and support.

Key Focus

- Professional learning and workshops
- Resource library (materials and kits)
- Community outreach and capacity building
- Tools and resources for inclusive practice

Together, our roles and partnerships ensure that every child has the support they need to participate fully and reach their potential - in inclusive, high-quality early learning environments. To learn more visit: https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/childcare/service-providers/inclusion-resource-service-model.aspx