



Bloom ABA

OAP GUIDE

Understanding OAP Funding

Core Clinical Services, Foundational Family Services, and how to plan around your budget.

The two main funding streams

OAP funding is organized into two main streams. Understanding the difference helps you plan realistically rather than guessing at what is available.

1. Core Clinical Services

This is the main, ongoing funding stream, and it is needs-based — the amount depends on your child's assessed needs, not a flat rate applied to every family. It can be used toward ABA therapy, speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, mental health services, and other eligible core clinical services. You choose which registered providers to work with.

2. Foundational Family Services

Available immediately after you register with AccessOAP, even while your Core Clinical Services determination is still being processed. This includes caregiver workshops, parent networking opportunities, and other family-facing supports that do not require a needs assessment first.

IMPORTANT

Funding amounts, eligibility rules, and processing times are set by the province and can change. Always confirm current figures directly with AccessOAP or at ontario.ca/page/ontario-autism-program-core-clinical-services — this guide is general information, not a guarantee.

How your funding amount gets determined

Core Clinical Services funding is based on an assessment of your child's support needs, not a fixed schedule by age or diagnosis. In general terms, the intensity of need identified — described by AccessOAP as extensive, moderate, or limited — is what drives the funding level, alongside your child's age range. Two children with the same diagnosis can receive very different allocations because their day-to-day support needs differ.

What is not typically covered

- Costs unrelated to your child's autism-related needs (general childcare, tutoring not tied to a documented goal)
- Services from unregistered or non-eligible providers — check a provider's eligibility before booking
- Retroactive claims for services received before your funding was approved, in most cases

Planning your budget: a simple worksheet

Once you know your funding allocation, use this rough framework to sketch out how it might be split. Fill in your own numbers as you learn them.

- Primary therapy (ABA, speech, or OT) — the bulk of most plans, especially in early years
- Secondary therapy — a second modality if your child's plan calls for one
- Assessments and reports — periodic re-assessments, school documentation

- Materials and equipment — visual schedules, sensory tools, AAC devices
- Buffer — most families keep some flexibility for the unexpected

Questions worth asking your provider

- How many sessions per week does my child's plan call for, and why?
- What happens if my funding runs out partway through the year?
- Do you handle OAP invoicing and paperwork, or is that on me?
- How often will we review and adjust the plan?

Frequently asked questions

Can I switch providers partway through the year? Yes — OAP funding is not locked to a single provider, though it is worth understanding any notice period or paperwork your current provider requires.

Does unused funding roll over? Rules around unspent funding can change — confirm directly with AccessOAP rather than assuming, since carrying a balance forward is not guaranteed.

Bloom ABA helps Toronto and GTA families build a realistic mix of services around their specific allocation, and handles provider paperwork so funding administration does not fall entirely on parents. Book a free 20-minute call at bloomaba.ca/contact.