

What is PUF?

PUF or Program Unit Funding is a government program provided to approved Early Childhood Services (ECS) operators for children with severe disabilities who require additional support beyond that offered in a regular ECS program. This funding is available for a maximum of 3 years for each eligible child who is at least 2 years 6 months of age on September 1 and less than 6 years of age on September 1. To receive this funding, a child must be eligible, according to a specified criteria for at least one of the qualifying disabling conditions.

An Individualized Program Plan, known as an IPP, must be developed for each child and the child's parent(s) must be involved in the development of this IPP.

What are the steps that will happen now?

Step #1

The identification of your child as a possible PUF candidate. This may happen through referral by a playschool teacher, other school related personnel, health unit contact or parent.

Step #2

Your child will be tested by those specialists with knowledge of your child's disability. This could include people such as a speech therapist, an occupational therapist, a behavioral specialist or a psychologist. Supporting documentation from these specialists will determine whether funding will be available for your child.

Step #3

A meeting will be set up with the parents and any specialists who may be involved with your child's program as well as the ECS teacher, school principal, teacher assistant (if one has been assigned) and others who may have some input into your child's program.



At this meeting you may be asked some of the following questions about your child's development as you see it in comparison to other children of the same age as your child.

- In the area of fine motor skills (cutting, coloring, drawings, etc.) how does your child compare?
- In the area of gross motor skills (hopping, jumping, skipping, running, bouncing a ball, etc.) how does your child compare?
- In the area of speech (number of vocabulary words used, ability to make themselves understood, ability to communicate in words with others) how does your child compare?

- In the area of cognition (thinking skills) how does your child compare?

Step #4

An Individualized Program Plan (IPP) will be developed for your child by the PUF Coordinator, Special Education Teacher, or classroom teacher. This IPP will then be presented to you for your approval and signature.

Step #5

At some point part way through the year, a second meeting will be held with the parents, specialists and others involved with the program in order to evaluate whether the IPP goals as set out are being met. Changes may be made to the IPP at this time to reflect those strategies which are or are not meeting with success. The parents will again be asked for their input and a signature will be required on revised IPP if changes are made.

Step #6

A final meeting will be held at the end of the term of the child's program in order to make plans for the following year and to evaluate the success of the child's program.

The following people may be involved in the implementation of your child's program.

PUF Coordinator

Director of Student Services

ECS Teacher

Speech Therapist

Occupational Therapist

Psychologist

Behavior Coordinator

Playschool Teacher

STUDENT SERVICES

My Child may be eligible for PUF
(Program Unit Funding)



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**For More Information
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<http://www.wrsd.ca>