

**Alberta's Health Regions and Voluntary Organizations and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)**

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Child Development Specialist (Local Condition)**

Date Updated: **May 20, 2008**

**Job Summary:**

The Child Development Specialist provides early intervention services in the community to support families with children at risk of or with a disability or significant developmental delay. The Child Development Specialist assesses and designs suitable treatment programs, evaluates the outcomes of interventions and provides follow up. The Child Development Specialist also liaises and provides consultation to community services.

**Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:**

**Core Duties**

- Provides screening, assessment, treatment planning, and evaluation and follow-up for the child and their family.
- Participates in ongoing program design, planning and evaluation.
- Identifies child developmental difficulties related to overall development.
- Plans/facilitates learning activities designed to enhance the development of the child within the family environment.
- Assists the family with developing skills to cope with the needs of the child.
- Provides referrals to other disciplines and external agencies as appropriate.
- Provides consultation to community agencies relative to overall general child development.

**Other Related Duties**

- Maintains printed resources and equipment for early intervention programs.
- Advocates for the needs of the child and family.

**Leadership**

- Supervises practicum students and volunteers.
- Provides in-service training and educates families, other health care providers and community members.

**Decision-Making**

- Determines appropriateness of referrals.
- Evaluates and adapts interventions/activities as appropriate.
- Reviews and evaluates effectiveness of support for the client and family.
- Resolves unusual or complex situations or cases or refers the situation to the appropriate individual(s).

**Knowledge:**

**Education**

- Bachelor's Degree in Family Studies, Psychology, Social Work or a child health-related field.

**Working Conditions:**

**Physical Demands**

- Required to stand and sit on floor.
- Lifts and carries clients, equipment and supplies.
- Assumes awkward positions.

**Work Environment**

- Work is divided between the office environment and the client's home environment.
- Community or home visits will have variable conditions.
- Travel in all weather/road conditions.
- May be subject to verbally and/or physically aggressive clients and family.