

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR BC FAMILIES

Funding & Learning Support

Exploring whether your child can learn alongside your family dog with help from provincial or school-based resources.

START HERE

Animal-assisted learning is not automatically an approved funding expense. The first step is to ask the relevant program or school whether your child's proposed activities, goals and service provider meet its requirements.

1 | BC Autism Funding — through March 31, 2027

Eligible families can continue to use Autism Funding during the provincial transition. For ages 6–18, the program includes certain life-skills, social-skills, out-of-school learning and specialized therapeutic services. Approval depends on the activity and provider requirements; an animal-assisted learning label alone does not establish eligibility.

Children under six: Funded intervention generally must be provided by a RASP-listed professional or a supervised behaviour interventionist under the program rules. Independent animal-assisted learning with an unapproved provider should not be presumed eligible.

Ask Autism Funding: "Could individualized, out-of-school learning activities involving our family dog be considered under my child's funding? What service category, provider documentation and authorization are required before we begin?"

2 | BC Children and Youth Disability Benefit

BC is transitioning eligible families to a new needs-based benefit. Funding is guided by an approved Support Plan and must address disability-related functional needs. Inclusive recreation or other supports may qualify in particular circumstances, but animal-assisted learning is not automatically approved.

Ask your CYSN worker or Benefit team: "Can these proposed learning goals and activities with our family dog be included in the Support Plan? What qualifications and documentation would the provider need?"

IMPORTANT 2026 TRANSITION

Autism Funding continues through March 31, 2027. Eligibility for the new Disability Benefit and the relevant payment process must be confirmed for each family. Do not book on the assumption that funding will be approved.

ANOTHER PATHWAY TO EXPLORE

School-Based Learning Support

SelfDesign, HCOS and other BC online learning programs are not the same school. Each makes its own decisions about outside learning activities and providers.

3 | Ask your online learning school

SelfDesign Learning Community and Heritage Christian Online School (HCOS) are separate independent online learning schools. Other BC options include public and independent schools such as EBUS Academy, NIDES and SIDES. Their approaches and procedures differ.

If your child attends an online learning program, speak with the learning consultant, support teacher or inclusive education coordinator. Ask whether animal-assisted learning could support documented educational goals and whether your school can approve the activity and an external provider.

QUESTIONS FOR THE SCHOOL

“Could learning activities with our family dog be part of my child’s learning plan or IEP? Is there a budget for outside educational services? What provider screening, criminal record check, insurance, invoice format or pre-approval is needed?”

4 | Where Jessica fits

Jessica offers animal-assisted learning informed by her experience in canine behaviour, psychology studies, developmental support and self-regulation. Activities may be designed around communication, participation, confidence, relationships and everyday learning, with the welfare of the animal considered throughout.

Professional scope: This description does not claim that Jessica is a registered social worker, psychologist, registered behaviour analyst, RASP-listed provider or independently credentialed clinical behaviour consultant. Her experience and training do not by themselves make her services eligible for Autism Funding or the Disability Benefit. If a program requires supervision, specific credentials or authorization, these arrangements must be verified before services begin.

What Jessica can provide: An outline of proposed activities, learning objectives, session structure, background and training information, and itemized invoices. She cannot guarantee that a provincial program or school will approve payment.

A SIMPLE NEXT STEP

Your Parent Checklist

You do not need to know the funding rules before asking a question. Start with your child's goals and the activity you would like to explore.

- 01 Describe the learning goal
For example: practising communication, gentle handling, turn-taking, attention or participation alongside the family dog.
- 02 Identify the funding pathway
Contact Autism Funding, your CYSN/Disability Benefit worker, or the child's online school—whichever applies.
- 03 Ask about both the activity and provider
Request written confirmation of the eligible service category, required credentials or supervision, documents and payment process.
- 04 Discuss suitability with Jessica
Share your child's interests and support needs and tell Jessica about your dog. Animal welfare, safety and fit are part of planning.
- 05 Arrange sessions after approval
If funding is needed, obtain authorization before committing to paid sessions. Private arrangements are also possible.

Where to ask

BC Autism Funding: 1-877-777-3530 | MCF.AutismFundingUnit@gov.bc.ca

BC Children and Youth Disability Benefit: 1-866-740-0047 | cfid.disabilitybenefit@gov.bc.ca

Online learning: Contact your child's learning consultant or inclusive education coordinator. BC school directory: search.onlinelearningbc.com/schools

Jessica Logan: jessicalogan.ca/children | jessicalogan.ca/contact

SOURCE & ACCURACY NOTE

Program information checked against BC government Autism Funding and Disability Benefit pages and BC's online school directory in October 2026. Rules and approval processes may change. This guide explains questions to ask; it is not a funding authorization.

Official references: www2.gov.bc.ca (Autism Funding, BC Children and Youth Disability Benefit); search.onlinelearningbc.com/schools.