

# Petition to Maintain Developmental Options for Autism Therapy in Manitoba

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA:

These are the reasons for this petition:

1. There is a need in Manitoba, as elsewhere, to address the needs of the rising numbers of children, youth, and adults with autism.
2. Therapy choices fall broadly into behavioral (Applied Behavioral Analysis, Denver Early Start) or developmental (Relationship Development Intervention, DIR/Floortime).
3. Behavioral approaches (ABA and the Early Start Denver Model), while popular, are not effective for every child and are not the preferred approach for many families. Developmental approaches (such as DIR/Floortime and RDI) are a research based, family-centered alternative.
4. Without public consultation, the Department of Families in Manitoba has chosen to allocate resources in its Autism Outreach early intervention program to training in and exploring the Early Start Denver Model. No resources are allocated to maintaining and upgrading training in DIR/Floortime.
5. This perpetuates a lack of much needed autism therapy options that are delivered by properly trained staff for a sufficient period of time.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

1. Ensure that DIR/Floortime is maintained as a viable option for families of children with autism, offered with fidelity to research-supported best practices by fully trained and certified staff.
2. Expand the availability and duration of this program and the other developmental program, RELATE, offered at Special Services for Children and Youth.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date

When completed, please send to ADAPT at 86 Bernard Bay, Winnipeg, MB R2C 3Y1