

# PROGRAM UNIT FUNDING (PUF)

"EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHAMPION; AN ADULT WHO WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON THEM, WHO UNDERSTANDS THE POWER OF CONNECTION AND INSISTS THAT THEY BECOME THE BEST THEY CAN POSSIBLY BE."



## WHAT IS PUF?

Program Unit Funding (PUF) is provided to school authorities for Early Childhood Services (ECS) children with severe disabilities who require support beyond that offered in regular ECS programs. Funding is provided for additional educationally relevant supports that vary depending on the individual needs of the child. PUF is available for a maximum of three years for eligible children less than six years of age on September 1.

## HOW IS PUF ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED?

To receive PUF funding a child must have an identified severe disability or delay in one or more developmental areas according to criteria described by Alberta Education. The child's functioning levels are also considered in determining programming needs.

## WHAT SUPPORT WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE?

Supports are developed and organized through a plan of action called an Instructional Support Plan (ISP). The ISP identifies the strengths and needs of a child based on assessments from qualified professionals and parental input. Programming varies from child to child and may include:

- focused intervention in a small group;
- strategic use of educational assistant time;
- peer-model instruction
- environmental supports (e.g. visual schedules, well-established routines, warnings of transition, visual cues, adapted furniture, use of physical boundaries to define space);
- embedding Individualized Program Plan (IPP) goals in ongoing routines and activities and
- consultation sessions with relevant professionals (Speech language pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Behavior consultant).

## HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

Families are valuable team members and through conversations with the learning team, help to set the direction of the learning goals, establish the type of program needed and the service providers needed. Additional optional Family Oriented Programming Sessions (FOPS) are available.