



pacekids

YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2024

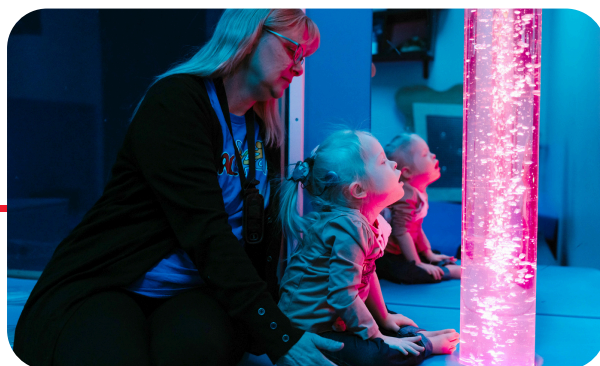
ANNUAL REPORT



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge Moh'kinsstis, and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot confederacy: Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, îethka Nakoda Nations: Chiniki, Bears paw, Goodstoney and Tsuut'ina Nation. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta Districts 5 and 6. Finally, we acknowledge all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

This sacred gathering place provides us with an opportunity to engage in and demonstrate leadership on reconciliation. Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to join our team on the lands of Treaty 7 territory.



ABOUT PACEKIDS

In 1994, a group of determined parents united with a shared vision: to create opportunities for their six children with diverse needs to grow, learn, and succeed. From this heartfelt initiative, Pacekids Programs was born. Over the years, our commitment to empowering children with diverse needs and their families has only grown stronger. With a focus on therapy, education, and family-centered care, Pacekids now supports over 600 children and families across the Calgary region annually, continuing to build brighter futures and stronger communities.

Vision - A community where all children with diverse needs and their families thrive.

Mission - Pacekids empowers children with diverse needs and their families through excellence in therapy, education, and play.

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

As we mark an incredible 30 years of Pacekids in 2024, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the vibrant community of families, supporters, and donors who make our work possible. Together, we share an unwavering commitment to empowering children with diverse needs to thrive.

What began in 1994 as a small program supporting six children through play and caregiver education has blossomed into a dynamic organization serving more than 600 families each year. Through three decades, our mission has remained steadfast: to provide excellence in therapy, education, and play while supporting children and families to reach their fullest potential.

Today, our two schools are home to programs where children with diverse needs take their first steps, speak their first words, and form lifelong connections. Beyond our classrooms, our growing community programs equip families with tools and strategies to navigate their child's unique journey, fostering skills that last a lifetime.

This year, guided by our strategic plan, Evolving Together, we embraced growth and innovation to meet the needs of our community. We prepared to open a 14th classroom and expanded programs to serve more families. Our staff's unwavering dedication and expertise continue to be the foundation of everything we do.

None of this progress would have been possible without the generosity and dedication of our supporters. Your belief in our mission enables us to dream big and achieve more for the children and families we serve.

As you read this report, you will see the remarkable impact made possible through our collective efforts. From the achievements of the children in our programs to the dedication of our staff and the generosity of our champions, this year has shown the power of coming together with purpose.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Pacekids story. Here's to the next chapter of creating brighter futures, one step at a time.

With sincere appreciation,



Alex Reed
Executive Director



Rhonda Bean
Board Chair



IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

When Christina looks at her daughter, Kaitlyn, she sees a world of possibility.

Kaitlyn loves to create art, grow plants, and daydream about exploring shipwrecks on the sea floor. She wants to be a marine historian when she grows up.

While she dreams deep, Kaitlyn also adapts to conditions that cause overstimulation and anxiety. The bubbly 12-year-old spends a lot of time at home while her peers enjoy easy access to recreational activities, summer camps, interest activities, and other opportunities in the community.

“It was a real challenge moving through the community,” said Christina. “Daycare, camps, dance class – we couldn’t participate in any of that.”

Then Christina found Pacekids Programs.

“Pacekids came to our house to help us, and they were not judgmental,” said Christina, recalling her first day with our caring team. “They didn’t tell me I needed to try harder – they didn’t say anything was my child’s fault.” Kaitlyn spent four years with our in-home team, and now she has bravely spoken about her experience during Putting for Pace 2024.

“Whenever I’m feeling down, my mom always tells me to think about the people who’ve supported and were kind to me,” she said in front of 200 golfers and community members.

“Pacekids has helped me to grow and learn about myself.”



IMPACT IN THE CLASSROOM

Caspar knew he belonged at Pacekids Programs during his first visit three years ago. His parents, Meagan and Chris, knew he would thrive here, too.

“He just took off into a classroom,” says Meagan. “He was sitting with the kids playing like nothing was up.”

Caspar lives with symptoms like mobility limitations and a speech delay that often leaves him feeling frustrated and isolated from his peers. Usually, he is reluctant to leave his parents’ side. This was not the case for Caspar at Pacekids Programs.

“Caspar was crawling in the hallway, and everybody was waving at him and chatting with him,” says Chris. “He was loving it.”

Encouraged by that strong sense of belonging, Meagan and Chris enrolled Caspar in our ECS program where he began to grow in exciting ways.

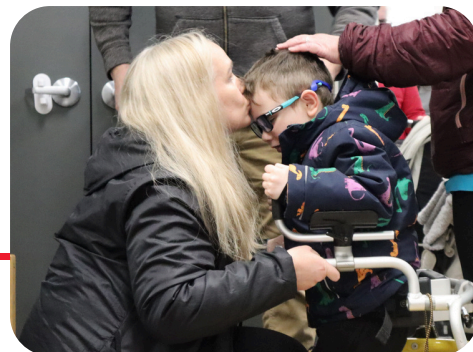
After finding a home at Pacekids Programs, Meagan and Chris watched their son, Caspar, take advantage of every opportunity to play, learn and grow. Most noticeable were his newfound language skills.

“Within three months at Pacekids the words just started coming out,” says Meagan.

“It was life changing to have any type of communication with him,” adds Chris.

Caspar began counting to 20, recalling and singing songs, playing pretend, and reading books – the result of his acceptance into our caring community of professionals alongside his loving parents.

“Pacekids was Caspar’s happy place outside of home,” says Meagan. “Going to school in the morning, seeing his teachers, seeing his friends – that was definitely good for him.”



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

90% of parents and caregivers believe that because of Pacekids their child is better prepared for the next steps in their education.



We kept the fun going with 520 music therapy sessions.

We spent over 17,000 hours directly working in family homes, with more than 660 families..

We had 55 experiences like field trips to Telus Spark, movement breaks with Puddle of Mud and even a felting lesson.

98% of parents, caregivers and families felt like they were invited to participate in their child's classroom and at school events.



We set 1375 unique goals in 2023-2024 and met an astounding 988 of those goals.

95% of parents and caregivers state their child enjoys coming to school.

More than 80% of our families share they are comfortable talking to others about their child and their needs.

85% of families strongly agree/agree that they have noticed an overall positive impact on their family.

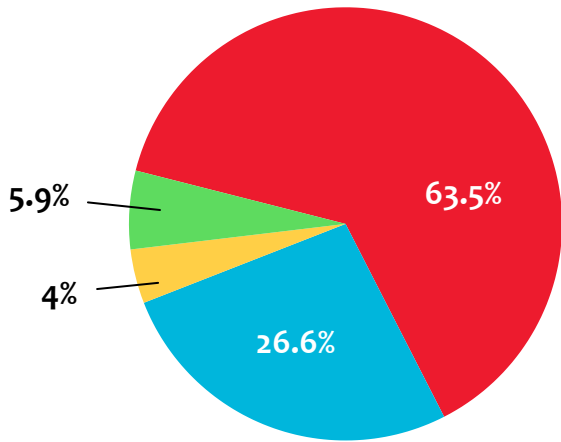
235 parents and caregivers were able to attend at least one event, field trip or classroom day.



Over 90% of families strongly agree/agree that they would recommend Pacekids to friends and family.

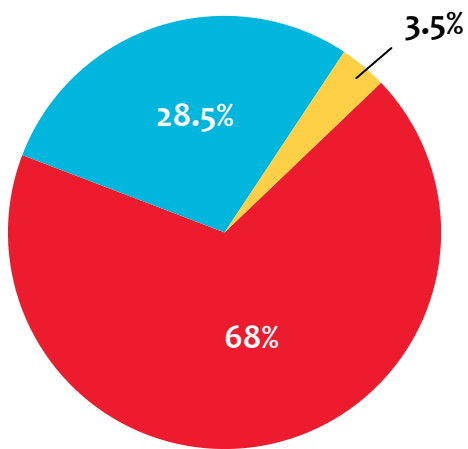
FINANCIALS

2023-2024



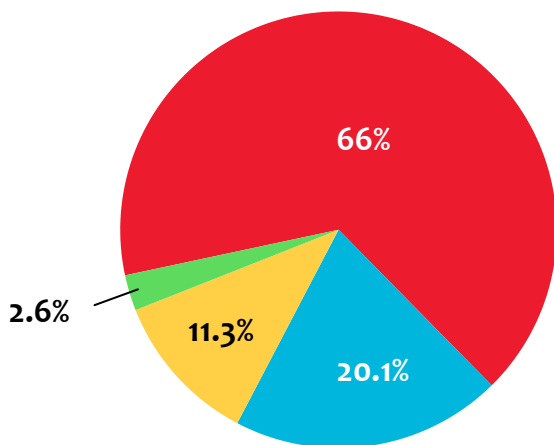
Our Funding

- Alberta Education - \$7,561,117
- Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services - \$3,165,028
- Donations and Fundraising - \$483,687
- Other - \$696,570



Our Expenses

- Program Delivery - \$7,533,890
- Operating Expenses - \$3,163,632
- Fundraising - \$393,214



Program Delivery Breakdown

- Early Childhood Services - \$4,970,361
- Behavioural and Developmental Support - \$1,510,913
- Specialized Services - \$853,327
- Fee for Service - \$199,289

Questions regarding Pacekids' financials can be directed to getinvolved@pacekids.ca

For Pacekids' complete audited financial statements, please visit pacekids.ca/publications

There are many ways to get involved with the Pacekids Programs community.
Visit pacekids.ca or email getinvolved@pacekids.ca to learn more.



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