

Every Child Belongs

Black Community Consultations

The Voices of Black Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers of Black Children with Disabilities within Early Childhood Education in Toronto

January 2025 – February 2026



About the Team

The Ase Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disabilities

The Ase Community is a national Black and disability-led non-profit organization serving Canada. We are fully accessible and culturally affirming, working with community members and partners to highlight resources, research, policies, and services that promote the well-being and economic inclusion of Black communities.



Sign up Now!

Your voice will lead critical change

Focus groups and interviews both virtual and in-person



Honoraria:

\$100 Black Family

\$50 Black Educators

Inclusive & Accessible

About the Study

This community-based research project amplifies the voices of Black parents and caregivers of children with disabilities in Toronto's early childhood education (ECE) settings. In partnership with the Every Child Belongs (ECB) unit, it aims to uncover systemic barriers, highlight lived experiences, and develop solutions for more inclusive ECE environments through a theory of change and staff training.

Using interviews, focus groups, and community consultations, the project—led by **Black researchers and parents with lived experience and grounded in the Black Feminist Disability Framework**—aims to inform public policy and improve early childhood education practices to better support Black children with disabilities and their families.

Who should sign up?

Black families with children in daycare, EarlyON services, or other programs within the Toronto childcare system.

Black Parents | Grandparents | Caregivers | Guardians | Adult Siblings

Black Educators, Staff, and Community Workers

ECE | EA | Early On | RC

Project Objectives:

- Identify barriers faced by Black families of children with extra needs in EarlyON and ECE child care.
- Highlight the lived experiences of Black parents and educators navigating with anti-Black racism and ableism in Toronto's child care system.
- Support the creation of a culturally affirming, practical training model for ECE staff to better assist Black families and children with extra needs.

For more information about the project email us at:
research@asecommunityfoundation.com or visit our website
www.asecommunityfoundation.com



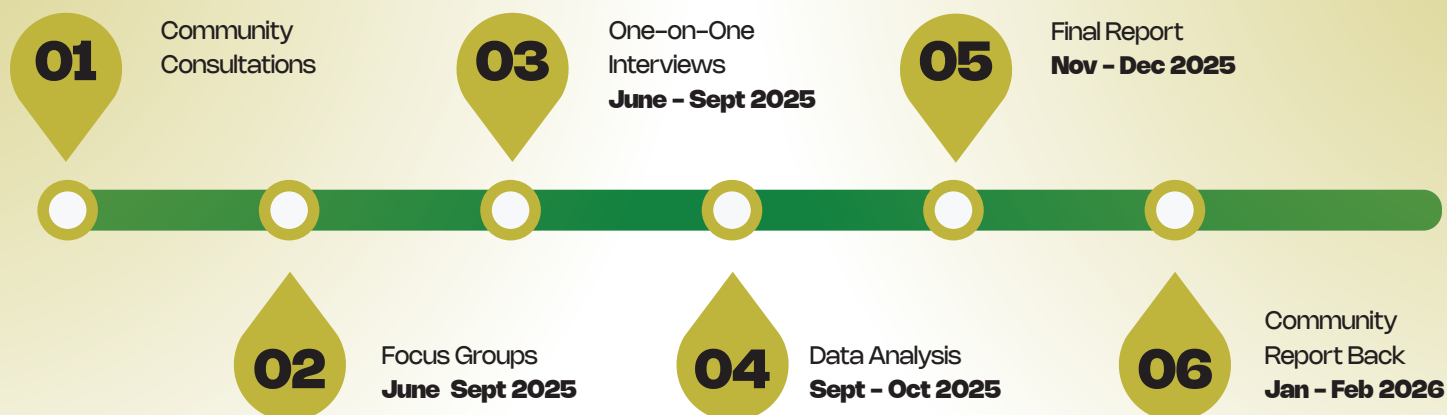
Understanding Extra Needs in Child Care

Black Children with Extra Needs in Childcare Settings:

- Early awareness and support for children's developmental, learning, and social-emotional needs.
- Inclusive environments that recognize the impact of ableism and anti-Black racism on Black children's experiences in early learning spaces.
- Support processes that affirm Black identity and culture while meeting diverse disability needs.



Project Timeline



Research Team

Our team of Black researchers and community partners proudly brings Black disability lived experience to lead this important project. We also draw on the subject expertise of Black families, educators, and educational stakeholders in Toronto.

Liza Arnason, BA, MA | Co-Principal Investigator | Project Lead
Patience Adamu, BA, MPPAL, PhD | Co-Principal Investigator
Appiah Bonsu, BA, MA | Research Coordinator
Lidia Ghebreyohannes, BA | Research Assistant

City of Toronto | Every Child Belongs

The City of Toronto's Every Child Belongs (ECB) program supports inclusive early learning and child care for children who need extra support.

A team of City staff, community agencies, and ECE Resource Consultants work with licensed child care and EarlyON programs to create accessible, high-quality learning environments.

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