



## RETRAITE QUÉBEC

Family Allowance

# The Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care

Understanding the eligibility criteria



## About the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care

The Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care is paid to the parents of a child under age 18 who has **severe and multiple disabilities** that prevent the child from carrying out his or her life habits, or whose medical condition requires **specified complex medical care at home**. A child could be eligible for the supplement if his or her condition corresponds to either of those situations.

In addition, depending on the severity of the child's condition and age, a child can be eligible to Tier 1 or Tier 2 of the supplement. Tier 1 provides a larger amount than Tier 2.

### Preconditions

To receive the Supplement for Handicapped Children Requiring Exceptional Care, the child's parent must already be receiving **Family Allowance** and the **Supplement for Handicapped Children for that child**.

If this is not the case, the parent must file an application for Family Allowance and the Supplement for Handicapped Children. The forms are available on our website.

## Eligibility analysis

Your child's eligibility for the supplement is assessed by Retraite Québec's team of physicians and health professionals, based on specific requirements.

### Severity of the limitations

Your child's eligibility is not determined solely upon the diagnosis, but also based on the severity of the child's limitations in carrying out life habits. Different decisions could therefore be rendered for applications filed for children with the same diagnosis.

#### Absolute limitation

The child is **absolutely incapable** of carrying out a life habit, or **always has extreme difficulty** accomplishing a life habit in an autonomous manner for his or her age despite the presence of facilitating environmental factors, such as technical aids. Carrying out every element of the life habit depends **entirely on the assistance of another person**.

#### Serious limitation

The child **always or nearly always has considerable difficulty** carrying out a life habit, for his or her age, despite the presence of facilitating environmental factors, such as technical aids. Without the help of another person, the child **cannot fully and adequately** accomplish the life habit.

### Life habits

The life habits taken into consideration when processing applications are those that a child must accomplish, **depending on his or her age**, with respect to his or her personal care and social life. The life habits are the following:

<b>Nutrition</b>	Eating, including the use of implements for eating and drinking.
<b>Personal care</b>	Cleanliness, excretal hygiene, getting dressed, use of medication.
<b>Moving about</b>	Moving short or long distances both inside and outside, and using technical aids.
<b>Communication</b>	The exchange of information with his or her entourage through speech and language, including comprehension, expressing needs, conversation, hearing and vision.
<b>Interpersonal relations</b>	Relationships with his or her entourage and the capacity to develop relationships.
<b>Responsibilities</b>	Assuming responsibilities for his or her age, following safety guidelines, behaving in the expected manner, solving everyday problems, respecting social norms.
<b>Education</b>	Intellectual development, knowledge acquired at preschool, or at elementary or secondary school.

## How to reach us

### Online

[www.retraitequebec.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.retraitequebec.gouv.qc.ca)

### By telephone

Montréal region: **514 864-3873**  
Québec region: **418 643-3381**  
Toll-free: **1 800 667-9625**

**My Account**

Access your file **24/7**

# Eligibility requirements

## Child with severe and multiple disabilities

The child has **physical impairments** or a **mental function disability** causing **severe and multiple disabilities** that prevent him or her from carrying out the **life habits** of a child of his or her age. The disabilities are expected to last for **at least one year**.

### Children aged 2 or over, but under 4

➤ Nutrition    ➤ Moving about    ➤ Communication

With regard to those three life habits, the child has:

#### Tier 1

**Absolute** limitations respecting **3 life habits**

#### Tier 2

**An absolute** limitation respecting **1 life habit**

+

**1 serious or absolute** limitation in **1 other life habit**

### Children aged 4 or over, but under 18

With regard to **all** the life habits taken into consideration, the child has:

#### Tier 1

**Absolute** limitations respecting **4 life habits**

+

**1 serious or absolute** limitation respecting **one other life habit**

OR

**Absolute** limitations respecting **3 life habits**, including **moving about**

+

**serious or absolute** limitations respecting **2 other life habits**

#### Tier 2

**Absolute** limitations respecting **2 life habits**

+

**1 serious or absolute** limitation respecting **one other life habit**

OR

**An absolute** limitation respecting **moving about**

+

**1 serious or absolute** limitation respecting **one other life habit**

## Child requiring specified complex medical care at home

The child's medical condition requires **specified complex medical care at home** for which parents have received training at a specialized centre in order to learn the specific techniques for using the required equipment. The care must be administered by the parents. They must also be able to respond to any potentially life-threatening change in their child's clinical condition. Parents are expected to administer the specified complex medical care to their child for **at least one year**.

### Child under age 18

A child receiving **one of the following types of care**:

#### Tier 1

##### ➤ Respiratory care:

- tracheostomy with mechanical ventilation;
- for children **under age 6 OR** for children **aged 6 or over** who have an absolute limitation respecting one life habit or two serious limitations respecting two life habits, not including personal relationships :
  - tracheostomy without mechanical ventilation;
  - daily non-invasive mechanical bi-level positive airway pressure ventilation using BPAP.

##### ➤ Nutritional care:

- parenteral alimentation (intravenous hyperalimentation).

##### ➤ Cardiac care:

- intravenous inotropic therapy;
- ventricular assist device (artificial cardiac pump).

##### ➤ Renal (kidney) care:

- peritoneal dialysis.

#### Tier 2

##### ➤ Respiratory care:

- for children **aged 6 or over** who do not have limitations in carrying out their life habits:
  - tracheostomy without mechanical ventilation;
- oxygen therapy or mechanical ventilation (CPAP, BPAP, high-flow oxygen therapy systems) on a daily basis, 24 hours per day.

##### ➤ Nutritional care:

- gastrojejunal or jejunal feeding tube.

##### ➤ Other care:

- daily skin care for severe and generalized dermatologic conditions at high risk of pressure wounds, webbing and contractures.

