

I want to learn how to drive but I'm not sure if I can because of my disability. How can I find out if I will be able to drive and what adaptations I might need for my vehicle?

Many people with a disability are able to drive. The best place to start is talking with your family, therapists, or your doctor about your interest in learning to drive and what some of your barriers may be. You may also need to see your eye doctor for a vision test.

There are a number of agencies in Ontario that are approved by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario to conduct **driving evaluations for medical reasons**. The full assessment will take 3 to 4 hours and will look at your reflexes, judgment, attention, memory and decision-making skills. There is also an in-car evaluation with a professional driving instructor so you must have your G1 license before you can be assessed. The assessment can be broken down ie. you can start with an assessment with the occupational therapist who will recommend any adaptations you may need and then you can take a driver training course and return for the in-car evaluation when you are ready.

A list of approved functional assessment centres for drivers can be found below. Many of these assessment centres work with Young Drivers of Canada. Young Drivers of Canada locations in Waterloo Region have access to adapted vehicles for their driver training programs. They have hand controls (for individuals who are unable to control the gas pedal and brake with their feet) and a left foot accelerator (an option for individuals with a right hemiparesis for example). They have accessible locations for the classroom portion of the training. Call their Waterloo office 519-579-4800 for more information or to book a driver training course.

Driving assessments can be quite expensive (\$600-\$1000). They are not covered by OHIP (Ontario Health Insurance Plan) or ACSD (Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities). If you are registered with the Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy (OFCP) you can access the LEAF fund for \$500 towards the cost of the assessment

<http://www.ofcp.ca/programs/funding/leaf/>. Ceridian Cares is another organization that will consider a request for funding if you meet their eligibility <http://www.ceridiancares.ca/>.

Funding may be available for vehicle modifications through the Ontario March of Dimes. Any modifications involving the gas, brake or steering will require a prescription from a physician or an Occupational Therapist who is specially trained. Modified vehicles will still have the original gas, brake and steering mechanisms available so others can drive. Speak to your Occupational Therapist at KidsAbility for more information.

Driving Assessment Centres

CBI Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Centre – various locations

In-car driver assessments are done through Young Drivers of Canada. Modified vehicles are available, including those with hand controls.

<https://www.cbihealth.ca/services/driver-assessments-rehabilitation>

To book an appointment call 1-800-558-4599

DMA Rehability -Kitchener

1601 River Road, Suite 311

Kitchener, Ontario, N2A 3Y4

Telephone number: 519-542-0046, ext. 226

Toll free number: 1-866-309-0046, ext. 226

Fax number: 519-452-3692

Toll free fax: 866-442-7691

Email: intake@dmarehab.com

<http://www.dmarehability.com/services/speciality-services.html>

Driving Assessment Program - Guelph

St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph

100 Westmount Road

Guelph, Ontario, N1H 5H8

Telephone number: 519-767-3414

Fax number: 519-767-4160

Email: opprograms@sjhcg.ca

<https://www.sjhcg.ca/our-programs-of-care/outpatient-services/>

Driver Assessment and Rehabilitation Program (DARP) - London

St. Joseph's Health Care

Parkwood Institute Arthur J. Hobbins Room D2-126

550 Wellington Road

London, Ontario

N6C 0A7 519-685-4070

www.sjhc.london.on.ca/darp

SE Driver Assessment and Training - Toronto

100 Tempo Avenue, Suite 330

Toronto, Ontario

M2H 2N8

1-416-398-1035

<https://drive.sehc.com/>