

A Parent's Guide to Integration Services In the County of Renfrew



“Helping to make Renfrew County the best place to raise a child”



INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Education provides funding and policy guidelines for Special Needs Resourcing Services and Fee Subsidy to the County of Renfrew Child Care Services Division under the Social Services Department. These services are available to children in licensed child care facilities who live in Renfrew County.

Fee subsidy is full or partial payment of licensed child care fees according to the income of a caregiver/parent.

Special Needs Resourcing supports

children who have a diagnosed cognitive, physical or behavioural concern that limits their ability to partake in activities related to normal living.

Special Needs Resourcing Funds provide support for enhanced child care staffing, resource materials, workshops and direct intervention planning and implementation planning in licensed child care centres which includes Nursery Schools, Daycares and Licensed Family Home.

The County of Renfrew Child Care Integration Services' goal is to ensure that every child will be able to attend a licensed child care agency in their community that offers inclusive and developmentally appropriate programs.

INTEGRATION SERVICES SUPPORTS

Renfrew County Child Care Integration Services is funded to provide a range of special needs services in licensed child care settings in Renfrew County. These include the following:

1. Resource

-  Funding for enhanced staffing support for child care centres
-  Child care staff training
-  Parent training and workshops
-  Resource lending (toys, equipment, books, etc.)

2. Direct Service for children

-  Assessment of child's needs
-  Staff consultation and training regarding goals and assessment outcomes
-  School transition support and consultation
-  Consultation with professionals

INTEGRATION COORDINATORS

Special Needs Services are supported by the Integration Coordinators who make on site visits to child care centres in order to assist licensed child care and eligible recreation services to;

-  Conduct environmental assessments in order to provide guidance on inclusion
-  Assist the child care staff in the development and implementation of developmentally appropriate programs
-  Prepare individual program plans for the children
-  Offer ideas and strategies for program adaptations that will enhance inclusion
-  Evaluate the ongoing effectiveness of recommendations and program adaptations
-  Collaborate with other agencies involved
-  Provide program resources (books, toys, adaptive materials)
-  Transition to school planning
-  Provide Professional Development and Training to families/caregivers and/or licensed child care staff or others

Integration Coordinators work with:

- ✎ Several children in more than one location
- ✎ Families/caregivers to develop a consistent expectation and approach for the child
- ✎ Centre-based child care staff and private-home day care providers
- ✎ Approved recreation programs
- ✎ Approved Before and After School based programs

SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCING STAFF

Special Needs Resourcing Staff are hired by each child care centre upon funding approval by Renfrew County Child Care Integration Services. Special Needs Resourcing Staff provide enhanced staffing to support the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care settings and recreation programs. This is available for children with special needs at no additional cost to parents or caregivers.

Resource staff funding may be based on one or more of the following:

- ✎ Physical or medical issues
- ✎ Feeding issues
- ✎ Social skills
- ✎ Emotional needs
- ✎ Behaviour
- ✎ Play skills
- ✎ Cognitive skills
- ✎ Communication skills
- ✎ Fine Motor skills
- ✎ Gross Motor skills
- ✎ Self Help Skills
- ✎ Sleeping habits
- ✎ Safety
- ✎ Sensory needs
- ✎ Family needs
- ✎ Other

As well Resource funding will be determined by each individual child care agency's needs based on:

- ✎ Curriculum and scheduling
- ✎ Staffing
- ✎ Child care physical environment
- ✎ Enrollment

Assessment of a Child's Goals and Objectives

Within each child care program informal assessments may be used for the purpose of screening, programming and evaluation of program recommendations. Informal assessments will assist with the following;

- ✎ Information gathering for consultations with a Consulting Psychologist, Speech and Language Pathologist or other professionals
- ✎ Identifying objectives and goals based on the child's strengths and needs
- ✎ Obtain information to support a professional referral
- ✎ Evaluate progress
- ✎ Evaluate the need for alternate strategies, goals and objectives
- ✎ Assist with educational objectives and transitions

Informal assessments take place in the child care setting as the child continues with his/her daily routine and as they interact with peers and adults. When the child has been assessed and all information is gathered from other professionals involved, the Consulting Psychologist or other professional will review the data and information gathered and recommends goals, objectives and methodology with the Integration Coordinator.

Parental consent and involvement in each area of assessment and evaluation of a child's needs and strengths is encouraged and welcome.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Guiding Principles of Renfrew County Child Care Integration Services is inclusion of parents/guardians in the process of assisting your child. As well all licensed Child Care agencies will be expected to partner with parents/guardians and Integration Services in the process of providing services for special needs children.

The following is an outline of the Roles and Responsibilities for each:

Parents/Guardians

-  Participate in case conferences.
-  Be available for regular communication with the Child Care staff and Integration Services Staff.
-  Participate in goal setting
-  Inform the child care staff of any changes to the child's attendance

Child Care Program

-  Provide relevant information regarding behaviour, development and health to the Integration services staff.
-  Participate in goal setting, implementation and recording involved in the Implementation Plan.
-  Modify program environment and incorporate the goals of the Implementation Plan into the program to support inclusion of the child.
-  Provide time for ECE and Resource Teacher to meet.
-  Provide time for ECE to attend relevant meetings, case conferences and training opportunities.
-  Ensure Resource Teachers are always over and above regular ECE child ratio.
-  Inform the Integration Coordinator if child is absent on scheduled visit day.

Integration Services

-  Observation, screening, functional assessments and monitoring
-  Implementation Plan (IP) development, review and implementation.
-  Consulting, making programming suggestions to ECEs.
-  Case conferences and coordination with other service providers to include goals in the Implementation Plan.
-  Referrals to other agencies, programs and services.
-  Resources, information and techniques for parents and ECEs (i.e., loaning of literature, toys and equipment e.g. seating).
-  Modeling effective teaching methods to promote inclusive practices.
-  Maintain regular visit schedule for the child care program and home.

Each Child Care Centre is responsible for the child while enrolled in the Child Care Centre. Each Centre must ensure that programming is inclusive, developmentally appropriate and is consistent with legislation and policy guidelines.

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