



## Special Needs Consultation Service: Components

Special Needs Consultation is available in every licensed child care program in Toronto. Consultation is available to support the inclusion of children with extra support needs in child care, their families and child care staff.

**Consultation services are comprised of two major components**

**Program Consultation:** The focus of program consultation is to build the capacity of the child care program to support the inclusion of children with extra support needs.

*DEFINITION:*

Providing child care programs with the tools they need to facilitate the full and meaningful participation of children with extra support needs.

*GOAL:*

Every child will be able to access a child care program in their community that offers inclusive and developmentally appropriate early childhood experiences.

*STRATEGIES:*

Special Needs Resourcing staff will build the capacity of a child care program to include children with extra support needs by:

- Making regular visits to programs to establish relationships and build trust
- Environmental assessments to provide guidance on the elements of inclusive settings
- Supporting early identification skills
- Preparing staff for the transition of children with extra support needs into care
- Assisting child care staff in the development and implementation of developmentally appropriate programs
- Offering ideas/strategies for program adaptations that enhance the inclusive environment
- Delivering training on a variety of special needs issues, engaging families and working with challenging families
- Supporting staff development on special needs issues
- Providing resources and appropriate referrals for additional services
- Participating in community networks



**Individual Consultation:** The focus of individual consultation is build the capacity of the child care program to support the enrollment of specific children with extra support needs

***DEFINITION:***

Providing support to child care staff to facilitate the full and meaningful participation of an individual child with extra support needs within a family centered model.

***GOAL:***

A children with extra support needs will be able to access a child care program in their community that offers inclusive and developmentally appropriate early childhood experiences.

***STRATEGIES:***

Special Needs Resourcing staff will provide caseload support for an individual child by:

- Providing individual consultation to the child, family and staff (e.g. Observations, assessment, IPP's, adaptations and strategies).
- Supporting the development of individual program plans, including adaptations and teaching strategies
- Modeling and coaching child care staff to develop their skills to work with individual children
- Service co-ordination, including supporting a families entry into care
- Providing resources and appropriate referrals for additional services specific to an individual child
- Providing documentation of child's progress and support given

**Anticipated Workload Percentages:**

Program Consultation/Capacity Building: 30%

Individual Consultation/Caseload: 70%