

The purpose of the Focus Group is to meet with staff teams and have an open discussion on their perspective of the situation. The session should be facilitated by a non-staff member.

This process helps in understanding if the challenges being experienced by staff are centre-wide or specific to one team. The responses are reviewed to determine if the strategies to be implemented to support staff should focus on a specific program such as For Goodness Sake, which involves the room staff only; or a joint workshop for the entire staff team to expand their knowledge of a specific topic, such as ADHD.

During the process of this project, it was a key aspect in determining not only what was needed to support staff, but which program best fit the dynamics of the staff team to address their concerns.

Question #9 provides an opportunity for each staff to express his/her perspective on anything related to the issue, the process, the solution, the focus group. It should be made clear to staff throughout that the forum is confidential and they would not be judged on their comments. Staff can decline to comment.

Question #10 provides an opportunity for the facilitators to share their perspective on what they have heard from staff.

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1) What supports are being received or have been received in the past from your resource consultant/early interventionist?
- 2) What supports you are receiving or have received in the past from other community agencies?
- 3) What did you feel was most beneficial?
- 4) What did you feel was least beneficial?
- 5) What strategies are being used if a child is engaged in physically aggressive behaviours such as destroying room/hurting self/hurting others/leaving room/centre? What are the immediate strategies that are being implemented?
- 6) What are the challenges with the strategies being implemented?
- 7) What preventative or supportive strategies do you think would have worked better?
- 8) What supports do you feel you need to help the child/family?
- 9) What support do you feel is needed for the program?
- 10) Individual Staff: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?
- 11) Facilitator: WHAT DO WE WANT TO SAY?