

PHYSIOTHERAPY CONSULTATION SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH GROSS MOTOR DELAYS (POINTS TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO REFERRAL)

Criteria: CCAC School Health Support Services (SHSS) are mandated for children with severe motor skill deficits that impact many activities of daily living.

Since children develop at different rates and in different ways, care should be taken to ensure that developmental differences are not automatically seen as disabilities/delays. A full medical/developmental assessment will provide valuable information for school and Physiotherapist (PT) in planning interventions to support students' needs.

Indicators: The following indicators will support a PT assessment:

- a) Gross motor skills are delayed compared to peer group and limits the child's ability to participate in or impacts safety within the school program.
- b) Evidence that the child's motor ability is significantly below his intellectual ability.

The CCAC acknowledges that **children with learning difficulties and attention deficits need to be accommodated, and the following should be evident:**

- a) The school team has developed a plan/program that outlines the strategies that address the confirmed or suspected learning disability.
- b) Pharmaceutical or behavioural interventions are minimizing the impact of the attention deficit in order for the child to benefit from PT consultation.
- c) Attention deficits are appropriately investigated (medically) and are controlled so that strategies to manage motor dysfunction will be effective.
- d) Teaching strategies that are used to accommodate any of the child's above-described difficulties at school can be shared with the PT so that the PT can develop a complementary plan of intervention.

Physiotherapy intervention for children with gross motor delays will be a health-based consultative process that is a support to, rather than a substitution for the education-based teaching process.

PT consultative services regarding task modification and general strategies will be offered to parents/caregivers/school personnel so that they can help the child improve functional gross motor skills needed for school and home.

The PT will provide suggestions, ideas and concepts that can be used in daily activity in the gym or playground to assist the child. The child is not taught specific skills in one to one intervention but is given strategies to be applied and to generalize this skill development in many activities.