

Introducing the Specialized Consultation Service Team

Susan Musgrave, Early Childhood Educator Specialized Resource Consultant

Resource Consultants are trained in child development with a focus on programming for children with special needs, including physical and developmental disabilities. Susan provides mentorship and modeling to Special Needs Resource Consultants. With many years of experience, Susan can provide enhanced support to the team with suggestions for more inclusive programming, adaptations to toys and activities, facilitating peer interactions, play-based skill development and classroom communication strategies.

Christie Welch, Occupational Therapist

Occupational Therapists (OTs) are regulated health professionals who work with people to maximize their participation in activities of daily living. In addition to her occupational therapy credentials, Christie brings to this role an undergraduate degree in Child Studies and over ten years of experience working in the field of child development. Christie uses information from the teachers, parents and special needs resource staff, as well as clinical observation to assess a child's functional abilities. Christie can conduct environmental assessments to determine barriers to participation. She will work with the team to identify activities, equipment and environmental changes that will enhance children's participation and development. For more information on Occupational Therapists visit www.coto.org

Accessing the Specialized Consultation Service has enhanced my own skills as a resource consultant and enabled us to increase the participation of children with special needs into our programming. Susan and Christie, the Specialized Consultants, use a hands-on and solution-focused approach to working with the child care team, and they provide therapeutic suggestions and model techniques, which are practical in a child care setting.

– Margaret Malina, Resource Consultant

About Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital is Canada's largest children's rehabilitation hospital.

Our vision is to create a world of possibility for kids with disability. We pioneer treatments, technologies, therapies and real-world programs that give children with disabilities the tools to participate fully in life.

Holland Bloorview serves about 7,000 children each year, with about 600 inpatient admissions and 58,000 outpatient visits. Holland Bloorview is a world-class teaching hospital fully affiliated with the University of Toronto. We train future health-care specialists in the field of childhood disability. The Bloorview Research Institute is located onsite, allowing us to integrate cutting-edge research and teaching with frontline care to improve children's quality of life.

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

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Community Outreach Service

Specialized Consultation Service

Supporting

Special Needs Resource Consultants in integrating children with special needs within Toronto child care programs



Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

As a Special Needs Resource Consultant to child care programs in Toronto, have you ever:

- wondered if a child on your caseload needed further assessment?
- worked with a child that has exceptional special needs that go beyond your area of expertise?
- wanted a second opinion on ways to integrate a child into the existing programming?

As the Specialized Consultation Service Team, we're here to help you.

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital's Specialized Consultation Services Team is pleased to offer Specialized Consultation Services to support Special Needs Resource Consultants in child care programs in all quadrants in the City of Toronto.

Our team, which includes a Specialized Resource Consultant and an Occupational Therapist, was set up to enhance and complement the role of the Special Needs Resource Consultants in Toronto's child care programs. The team collaborates to provide short-term specialized intervention and consultation to Special Needs Resource Consultants as they serve child care programs and individual children.

The team has expertise in:

- **Capacity building and education** for professionals in the field of early childhood education.
- **Techniques** to modify curriculum routines and the physical environment in order to better include children with physical and developmental disabilities.
- **Advanced assessment** and programming in all areas of development.
- **Positioning and handling techniques** to improve participation and motor development in children with a physical disability.
- **Links** to community resources and advocacy support.

Our services

Individual Consultation

The Team can assist with:

- **Equipment recommendations** including ways to facilitate safer toileting, increased participation in activities and proper positioning.
- **Improving independence** in the areas of feeding, dressing and toileting.
- **Feeding safety** related to chewing and swallowing skills.
- **Addressing sensory processing or sensory integration concerns** by suggesting techniques for supporting a child who is over or under sensitive to stimulation.
- Supporting Special Needs Resource Consultants in the **assessment and goal planning process** when previous strategies have been unsuccessful.
- **Strategies for inclusive programming** (e.g. visual communication and toy adaptation).
- **Transitioning a child** with special needs into a community school.

To begin an individual consultation, we require parental consent and an application that includes the child's health card number and the name of child's primary physician. In addition, we require a service agreement between the family, the referring Special Needs Resource Consultant, the child care centre and our team.

Training & Education

The team can provide training and education on topics including:

- **A specific diagnosis or disability** and how it impacts a child's participation in child care.
- **General strategies for inclusive programming** such as adapting toys, activities and classroom design.
- **Modifications** to outdoor play equipment and activities.

- **Educational workshops** for staff on specific disabilities and/or interventions.
- **Individualized training** to advance your practice to improve your assessment and programming skills.

To access individualized education or group training, contact our team directly.

Who do we serve?

We serve children who are between 0 and 12 years of age, who are enrolled part-time or full-time in a child care program in Toronto. The child **does not** need to be a Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital client in order to access this service.

Please note: registration with this service does not facilitate access to other Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital services.

How to access our services

Susan Musgrave, ECE
Specialized Resource Consultant

Christie Welch
Occupational Therapist

416-425-6220 ext. 3083

For individual consultations, you can also contact your quadrant interagency table. We will help determine whether our team can provide the most helpful support, or refer you to another community partner.

The Community Outreach Service is offered through Early Learning and Development at Holland Bloorview.