



NORTH SHORE SCHOOL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS

Who is eligible?

The BC Centre for Ability is contracted by the Ministry of Child and Family Development and the North and West Vancouver school districts to provide occupational therapy (OT) services to school-age children registered in north shore public schools who have neurological and/or developmental challenges.

What does the program offer?

The goal is to help maximize student participation and independence at school, at home, and in the community. Due to the funding formula the majority of service typically occurs in the school setting, addressing educational goals.

Because of this, most OT contact is with your child's teacher and school support staff.

OT may address fine motor skills, written output, sensory processing and/or self-care skills. Equipment and alternative approaches to tasks are frequently recommended. Therapists may also assist with access to technology and architectural/environmental accessibility. The OT is consulted only if the school support team is unable to address an area of need.

a. Assessment:

Following referral by the school based team, with your permission; an OT will assess your child and provide recommendations and strategies to assist participation. She will ask you and your child's teacher/support team about your child's strengths and needs and discuss your concerns and goals for your child. She may use standardised measures in addition to clinical observation. All assessment reports are copied to parents in addition to school teams.

b. Ongoing Consultation:

Students who have a "low incidence" designation are eligible for ongoing OT consultation. A low incidence designation is assigned by the school district to students who require greater support. If you are unsure about your child's designation, please check with your OT or ask at your child's school. For these students the OT will continue to be available when something new is identified, when strategies need revision or when equipment needs change. This may include participation at some IEP meetings. The OT will typically rely on school based team and/or parents to request service. At the end of each school year, if a formal reassessment report has not been indicated, a year end summary will be sent to you. This will describe OT involvement with your child during that year, provide you with the contact information for the OT and recommend whether or not your child will continue to require OT consultation. At your request, the OT can also forward copies of reports on your child to those persons which you identify on the consent form. You will be asked to update this consent form periodically.

How to Contact your child's OT:

Each OT works part-time so is available and can respond to messages only on certain days of the week.

By phone: Each OT has a voicemail which can be accessed through the BCCFA main telephone number 604-451-5511.

By E-mail: Each OT has an e-mail address which comprises of the first name, followed by a period, followed by last name @bc-cfa.org. For example jane.smith@bc-cfa.org. For privacy reasons OTs do not use e-mail to send information which can be used to identify your child

Hours of work: This is individual so please ask your OT or call the main office number. OT service is not available over weekends. During your OT's vacation, coverage is available for emergencies only.

For more information see www.bc-cfa.org or contact the NSSOT program director **Emily Lee** at Emily.Lee@bc-cfa.org or 604-630-3001.