

SCHOOL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES (SHSS)

PROVIDED THROUGH

ONTARIO HEALTH atHome

School Health Support Services (SHSS) is a program of Ontario Health atHome which assists children with rehabilitation needs and/or physical challenges to attend school and participate in school-related activities. SHSS services are intended for short- term treatment, consultation, and/or teaching to assist the student in participating in the school curriculum. Please note there may be a waiting period for some services due to fiscal or service provider constraints. Your son/daughter may require assessment and/or therapy services from an Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, a Speech-Language Pathologist, nurse or nutritionist for children with specific medical needs; and/or personal support services in private or home-schooled settings.

Services are funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care; therefore, the student must have a valid Ontario Health Insurance Number in order to receive Ontario Health atHome services.

We work in partnership to ensure that students receive the best possible services.

A team approach is used to assist each student.

The *School Health Support Services Team* includes the student, family, school, Ontario Health atHome Care Coordinator and the Therapist(s).

Let's look at the team and what each member contributes:

The **School** first discusses the student's needs with the **Family** and ensures that the family agrees to a referral being made to Ontario Health atHome. The school completes the referral and forwards it to SHSS at the Ontario Health atHome.

The student is then assigned to a health professional called a **Care Coordinator (CC)** who:

- Assesses the student's eligibility for SHSS, through a telephone assessment, and/or school/home visit
- Prioritizes referrals according to individual needs
- Authorizes services for the student.
- Develops a service plan, with the family and school, based on the child's needs and communicates with the Therapists working with your child
- Reviews your child's progress by reviewing assessment, progress and discharge reports from the Therapists and discharges services when appropriate

Parents can assist by:

- Responding promptly to calls from Ontario Health atHome Care Coordinator and Therapist(s)
- Providing consent for service and assessment to Ontario Health atHome Care Coordinator and Therapist(s)
- Providing information about the students' history and services the student has received relevant to the reason for referral to Ontario Health atHome Care Coordinator and Therapist(s)
- Communicating with the Care Coordinator about health issues or concerns, or change of home address, health card number or change in school

- Preparing their child for the assessment and services
- Informing the Therapist in advance when the student will not be at school or available for therapy (due to illness, early dismissal, appointments, school activities or trips)
- Carrying out assigned practice at home to ensure that new skills are reinforced and integrated into daily routines
- Contacting the child's Care Coordinator with any questions or concerns

The Student works best with the Therapist by:

- Attending all scheduled sessions
- Actively participating in the therapy sessions
- Completing and practicing assigned therapy homework-learning any new skill takes lots of practice!
- If the student is capable of giving consent they must agree to receive service

The School:

- Provides a quiet, private location that is conducive to therapy as well as access to observation/working with the student in the classroom
- Ensures the student is available at the scheduled time and advises the Therapist when school activities interfere with a scheduled visit
- Facilitates access of the Therapist to appropriate school personnel in order that the Therapist can plan and work collaboratively with the school team to implement recommendations and strategies.

The Therapist:

- Completes an assessment and provides recommendations to the school and family
- Provides assessment, progress and discharge reports to Ontario Health atHome, family and school (with parental consent)
- Works with the school personnel and family using a collaborative consultation service model. Collaborative consultation is essentially a team approach that includes the student, the parents, teacher, special educational resource staff, therapists, Ontario Health atHome Care Coordinator and any other individuals who act as educational resources. This team works together to determine how each person can assist the child to maximize their participation in the school environment.
- Assigns therapy homework as appropriate
- Notifies the parent and school if there is a need to cancel a scheduled visit
- Notifies the Care Coordinator if there is a change in the service plan

The best way to help children is to work together....