



Special Needs Resource (SNR) Handbook

Contents and how to use this package

Contents

Special Needs Resource (SNR) Handbook	1
Contents and how to use this package:	1
Overview of SNR package.....	2
Special Needs Resourcing (SNR Child Care Support Package	3
Purpose of SNR agencies in Durham	3
Inclusion Statement.....	3
List of all Durham Region SNR agencies.....	4
Additional Supports:	4
Overview of Durham Region SNR Agencies	5
Connecting observations to recommended supports:.....	7
Frequently asked questions	9
SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCE CONTACTS	11
Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth.....	11
Preschool Outreach Program (POP), Grandview Children’s Centre	11
Durham Behaviour Management Services (DBMS).....	11
Infant and Child Development (ICD).....	11
Blind-Low Vision, Surrey Place Centre	11
Quality Assurance (QA) and Contract Compliance	11
SNR Manager contact list	12

Agency-Specific Contact Information

Look in this section to find the list of staff who work at all the SNR agencies. You will also find listings of SNR and Quality Assurance staff connected to each child care centre in Durham. Print the agency contact for your site on the laminated SNR Agency sheet and hang it in a convenient location.

Additional Resources

- Educator Poster – your package contains a colour poster for you to add to your attendance binder or other location where educators can access it. Your head office was also provided with large posters if space permits in your centre.
- Family Pamphlet – The colour pamphlet provided is to be used during conversations you may have with families, to help explain SNR services.

Overview of SNR package

Throughout this document, you will find community agencies and services that are available for your early learning team. These partners are funded through the Regional Municipality of Durham, Children's Services Division using Provincial funding guidelines to provide Special Needs Resourcing services. The funding is used to enhance the capacity of educators and support the inclusion of all children in early learning and child care environments. Additionally, these agencies can provide support to educators regarding individual children enrolled within licensed child care programs with informed consent.

Who can access these services?

Any educator working in a licensed child care program within Durham Region can access the resources and services offered by the SNR programs/agencies.

Who Benefits from this information?

The following information may be beneficial for RECEs, ECAs, centre supervisors, as well as parents and families of children of all abilities.

What is the purpose of the SNR Information package?

The purpose of this package is to provide information for educators within the early learning community across Durham Region. The information provided outlines the services and supports available to ensure the unique learning needs of individual children are met within their program.

The goal is to ensure educators feel supported throughout their professional practice, and capable of meeting the unique learning needs of all children in their programs.

Special Needs Resourcing (SNR Child Care Support Package)

Purpose of SNR agencies in Durham

Services and agencies within Special Needs Resourcing aim to support Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) and educator teams across Durham Region in their professional practice. The information provided in this package has been formulated to offer resources for educators in the process of building their capacity to support all children, regardless of ability or background, within their early learning and care programs. The goal of this information package is to ensure educators feel supported during potential situations where additional resources and/or personnel are required.

Inclusion Statement

Below is a sample inclusion statement. You are welcome to include this statement in your parent handbook if you choose.

The Durham Region early learning and child care community supports Ontario's philosophy that: "all children benefit from being in inclusive environments where they are able to participate and collaborate in meaningful ways to form authentic, caring relationships. When children with special needs have access to appropriate support from early years programs it can help them to have rich and fulfilling childhoods and prepare them for meaningful participation in society" (Ontario Ministry of Education, 2014, p. 25).

List of all Durham Region SNR agencies

- Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth (RFECY)
 - Durham Behaviour Management Services (DBMS)
 - Preschool Outreach Program (POP), Grandview Children's Centre
 - Infant and Child Development (ICD)
 - Blind/Low Vision Team, Surrey Place Centre
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Additional Supports:

- Region of Durham Children's Services Division: Quality Assurance Advisors and Training Specialists

Overview of Durham Region SNR Agencies

SNR Program/Agency	Overview of Services
<p>Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth (RFECY)</p>	<p>RFECY services provide general and ongoing support to educators across a broad spectrum of topics in the form of resources, training, and hands-on coaching, with the overall goal of building capacity in professional practice.</p> <p>Educators will receive ongoing inclusive support in the form of onsite consultation from their Early Learning Inclusion (ELI) Consultant who can aid in initiating / supporting referrals to additional SNR agencies, ISP development, implementation of general or child specific strategies, creation and monitoring of a Collaborative Action Plan and Case Management.</p> <p>Support with referral for Enhanced support funding / staffing if necessary.</p>
<p>Preschool Outreach Program (POP), Grandview Children's Centre</p>	<p>POP assists in connecting the child and family to clinical assessments at Grandview to support educators in the early learning environment.</p> <p>The program supports educators in their inclusive practice by providing child-specific recommendations related to development in the areas of communication, fine & gross motor development, sensory processing, and daily living skills.</p> <p>POP does not offer general room consultations or assessments, or direct clinical therapy for a child within the child care environment.</p>
<p>Durham Behaviour Management Services (DBMS)</p>	<p>DBMS provides behaviour consultation in the form of recommendations and direct coaching for educators in early learning environments with the goal of reducing challenging behaviours and increasing functional skills displayed by an individual child or group of children.</p> <p>Educators may request general behaviour support for an entire room environment, or child-specific consultations to target significant behaviour concerns.</p>

SNR Program/Agency	Overview of Services
Infant and Child Development (ICD)	<p>ICD provides specific strategies and recommendations for educators to support the transition of a child with developmental concerns or disabilities from the home environment to the early learning setting.</p> <p>ICD specialists complete a full transition process with the educator team through observations, consultations, and active coaching. ICD specialists support educators in their connection with other SNR service providers for ongoing support for the child within the early learning environment.</p>
Blind-Low Vision, Surrey Place	<p>Blind-low vision consultants provide support to educators in the form of recommendations and strategies to ensure a child with a vision impairment has a successful transition from the home environment to the early learning setting.</p> <p>Consultants can provide potential next steps and ideas for educators to implement in support of children with either a visual diagnosis, or children who may have potential vision needs. A diagnosis is not required for general recommendations and supports related to vision concerns. A pre-referral consultation may be completed if questions arise related to a child's visual functioning.</p>

Additional Resources available for programs with Purchase of Services

Agreement:

Quality Assurance (QA) advisors	<p>QA advisors support early learning programs by assessing the quality of the environments and following up with potential recommendations to improve the quality of care.</p> <p>Yearly assessments are completed for centres with a Purchase of Service Agreement using Durham Region's Operating Criteria (DROC) tool.</p>
Training Specialists	<p>Where required, QA's may refer a centre to the Training Specialist team for intensive support to meet DROC expectations.</p>

Connecting observations to recommended supports:

Observation	Recommended Support
<p>“I have a number of children in my preschool room who require the development of an ISP. However, I am unsure of what information must be included in these documents, and how best to format them.”</p>	<p>Early Learning Inclusion Consultant – RFECY</p>
<p>“I have a child who is displaying increasing levels of aggression throughout their play and interactions with peers. I am concerned about how to appropriately address these behaviour challenges in an effective manner.”</p>	<p>Early Learning Inclusion Consultant - RFECY</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Durham Behaviour Management Services</p>
<p>“I have made frequent observations on a child who is struggling to clearly articulate their language. As an educator, I am having trouble in my ability to understand what this child is attempting to communicate, which is impacting their engagement in learning opportunities throughout the classroom.”</p>	<p>Early Learning Inclusion Consultant - RFECY</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Preschool Outreach Program - Speech and Language Services</p>
<p>“I have a child in my program who seems to be unable to sit for extended periods of time, especially during activities such as mealtime.</p> <p>Instead, this child chooses to explore the classroom and various activity areas.”</p>	<p>Early Learning Inclusion Consultant - RFECY</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Durham Behaviour Management Services</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Preschool Outreach Program - Occupational Therapy Services</p>
<p>“I am concerned about a child in my program who may be struggling with their vision. I have attempted to make adjustments but would appreciate further recommendations.”</p>	<p>Early Learning Inclusion Consultant - RFECY</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Blind/Low Vision Team, Surrey Place Centre</p>

Observation	Recommended Support
<p>“There is a child in my program who is only communicating with single words and gestures. Although I understand what she wants most of the time, I am worried she is not at a developmentally appropriate level for her age, and I would like to support her.”</p>	<p>Early Learning Inclusion Consultant - RFECY</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Preschool Outreach Program - Speech and Language Services</p>
<p>“I have a child in my program who is frequently sick with ear infections. I am also having difficulty helping them follow through with routines and single-step instructions.”</p>	<p>Early Learning Inclusion Consultant - RFECY</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Preschool Outreach Program - Speech and Language Services/ Audiology Services</p>
<p>“I have multiple children in my program who require multiple adaptations during learning activities. This added requirement has placed a significant strain on my ability to support every child’s needs. I would appreciate some additional support for the physical needs of children.”</p>	<p>Early Learning Inclusion Consultant - RFECY</p>
<p>“I am an educator in a preschool classroom that struggles with routines and transitions, especially transitions from indoor environments to outdoor settings. I have tried many different strategies but would like additional recommendations for how to support these moments in the day.”</p>	<p>Early Learning Inclusion Consultant - RFECY</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>Durham Behaviour Management Services</p>
<p>“I have a child with known significant developmental needs who will be joining my program, and I would like support to ensure all requirements are met for a successful transition.”</p>	<p>Early Learning Inclusion Consultant - RFECY</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infant and Child Development - Grandview Children’s Centre

Frequently asked questions

Q. I am unsure of the type of support I require, but I know I need additional resources and recommendations. Which agency should I contact regarding general inquiries?

A. The best agency to start with is Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth. By contacting your assigned Early Learning Inclusion (ELI) Consultant, they will be able to direct you to the most appropriate service to meet your specific needs.

Q. If I know the agency most appropriate for the support I am requesting, do I have to contact my ELI Consultant first?

A. Your ELI Consultant is a great resource to support general room inquiries, implementation of any recommended strategies, and the initiation of a referral to any SNR agency. Your ELI may also be a significant resource in the development of an ISP for a specific child. However, if you know the agency you are hoping to initiate a referral with, you do not have to contact your ELI first.

Q. Does the family have to consent to all requests for SNR support?

A. When requesting additional support for a specific child, many of the SNR agencies require informed consent from the family. For example, both the Preschool Outreach Program and Durham Behaviour Management Services require written consent from the parent/caregiver to provide child-specific consultations and supports. However, general support from an assigned ELI is available to all licensed child care programs, and all educators in need of ongoing support with inclusive practice.

Q. Am I required as an educator to develop an ISP?

A. As mandated by the CCEYA, an educator must develop an ISP for any child requiring additional adaptations and learning accommodations within a program. If support is required during this development process, the assigned ELI is able to offer any support to ensure the document is developed effectively.

Q. When is the best time to initiate a referral?

A. There is no perfect time to initiate a referral for additional supports and services when related to a child in your program. However, if you have any concerns related to a child's development, please contact your assigned ELI consultant, or any of the related SNR agencies as soon as possible. Early intervention is critical to ensure the child receives the supports and services they need to be successful in their early learning environment.

Q. As an educator, how do I support a family who may be hesitant to consent to any of these support services?

A. Some families may be hesitant to providing their consent for additional resources based on several different factors. If you have a family who may be hesitant towards agreeing to initiating a referral with any of these agencies, please contact your Early Learning Inclusion (ELI) consultant who will be able provide support and recommendations for ongoing communication with the family. The SNR family resource (information brochure) may also provide a good starting point for discussions on a potential referral. Please see additional copies of the information handout to share with families who may be interested in additional supports for their child.

Special Needs Resource Contacts

Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth

My Early Learning Inclusion Consult is _____

Phone Number: 905-427-8862, ext. _____

Preschool Outreach Program (POP), Grandview Children's Centre

Primary Contact for Referrals/General Inquiries: Early Learning Outreach Coordinator (ELOC)

Phone Number: 905-728-1673, ext. 2521

Durham Behaviour Management Services (DBMS)

Primary Contact for General Inquiries: 905-668-7711 Ext. 2829

My DBMS Consultant is: _____

Phone number: 905-668-7711, ext. _____

Infant and Child Development (ICD)

Primary Contact: Janice Bogdan (Manager): 905-668-7711, ext. 2971

Blind-Low Vision, Surrey Place Centre

Primary Contact: Susan Hunt, Early Childhood Vision Consultant

Phone Number: 416-925-5141, ext. 2542

Quality Assurance (QA) and Contract Compliance

My QA Program Advisor is: _____

Phone Number: 905-668-7711, ext. _____

SNR Manager contact list

Blind-Low Vision, Surrey Place Centre:

Program Manager: April Cornell
Email: april.cornell@surreyplace.on.ca
Phone Number: 416-925-5141

Durham Behaviour Management Services:

Program Manager: Jennifer Cunningham
Email: jennifer.cunningham@durham.ca
Phone Number: 905-668-771 ext. 2827

Program Manager: Kelly Bradstock
Email: Kelly.Bradstock@durham.ca
Phone Number: 905-668-7711 ext. 2837

Infant and Child Development:

Program Manager: Janice Bogdan
Email: Janice.Bogdan@durham.ca
Phone Number: 905-668-7711 ext. 2971

Preschool Outreach Program, Grandview Children's Centre:

Program Manager: Meredith Stratton
Email: meredity.stratton@grandviewkids.ca
Phone Number: 905-728-1673 Ext. 2228

Quality Assurance and Contract Compliance:

Program Manager: Beth Carson
Email: beth.carson@durham.ca
Phone Number: 905-668-7711 ext. 3632

Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth:

Program Manager: Bev Cummins
Email: bcummings@rfecydurham.com
Phone Number: 905-427-8862 ext. 357



GROW

Winter 2019

Continuous Professional Learning in Durham



What is the GROW Newsletter?

The GROW Newsletter is an information guide with the goal of supporting continuous professional learning opportunities for educators and child care professionals across Durham Region. The Newsletter contains resources, upcoming workshop and training information, and registration links to professional learning opportunities within Durham Region.

What is CPL, and why should I know about it?

Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) is now a requirement for Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) in order to renew and maintain their professional registration with the College of ECEs. To ensure educators meet these professional learning requirements, the GROW Newsletter offers various opportunities for ongoing professional development.

How do I access the GROW Newsletter?

All child care professionals may access the most recent version of the GROW Newsletter on the Early Learning and Child Care section on Durham Region website. The latest version of the newsletter will be posted under the 'Resources for Child Care Professionals' tab. Please find link below:

<https://www.durham.ca/en/living-here/child-care-and-early-learning.aspx>



When is GROW updated?

For all updates on services and resources offered by Durham Region, as well as new editions of GROW, please register your email. The registration link below can be found by following the link above.

GROW is updated with new information and workshop dates on a seasonal basis. Workshop dates will become available in each new addition of the newsletter. Upcoming editions include:

Spring – posted mid-March

Fall – posted mid-August

Winter – posted mid-December

Are there other resources available for educators?

GROW highlights many different supports and services available for educators and child care professionals operating out of a licensed child care centre. One resource available to all educators is the **Resource Library**. Please see details regarding how to access the services provided in the library on the additional information sheet.