

# FSCD Specialized Services

## Information for Parents

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### Specialized Services

Specialized services for children with severe disabilities involve direct support for children and support for families.

Specialized services are provided by a team of professionals, including health professionals, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech language pathologists, psychologists, behaviour specialists and aides based on the child and family's needs.

### Considerations

Specialized services are provided based on the child and family's unique and individual needs when:

- the child has a severe disability that is significantly limiting their ability to function in normal daily living activities;
- the family needs to provide continual and ongoing assistance and supervision to ensure their child's safety and ability to participate in normal daily living activities;
- the child has critical service needs in two or more areas, including behaviours, communication and social skills, physical abilities, cognitive abilities, or self-help skills; and
- their service needs cannot be met by other programs or services, including other less intrusive FSCD services.

### Severe Disability

The term "severe disability" refers to the degree to which the child is limited in their ability to function in normal daily living activities and the extra care demands this creates for their family.

Recognizing the importance of providing the right services at the right time, FSCD workers may need to consult with experts when making decisions about a child and family's need for specialized services, and how specialized services may be most beneficial for the child and family.

### Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

The FSCD Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) is a group of professionals established by the FSCD program.

The MDT provides information to support FSCD in making decisions about providing specialized services and supports families to ensure that their plan is based on best practices and will address their child's needs.

The MDT is made up of the following health professionals who have experience and expert knowledge about services and best practices for children with severe disabilities and their families:

- speech-language pathologists
- occupational therapists
- physical therapists
- psychologists

The MDT process is being reviewed to explore improvements for families.

### Individualized Service Plan

An Individualized Service Plan (ISP) is a document that outlines a plan that the family and their service providers have developed to address the child's needs and the family's goals.

The ISP can change over time to reflect changing needs.

For children and families receiving specialized services, the ISP describes:

- the goals or purpose for providing specialized services;
- steps necessary to achieve the goals; and
- ways of tracking progress towards achieving the goals.

The ISP does not need to include goals for the parent, guardian or family.

Within specialized services, parents are:

- not expected to become "therapists" to their child.
- not expected to provide direct services or intervention to their child.
- not required to be in the room or participating when specialized services are being provided to their child.
- not required to do work at home between meetings with their specialized services team which is beyond their normal parenting obligations.