

Halton Region Special Needs Strategy Planning Tables Update

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WHAT IS THE ONTARIO SPECIAL NEEDS STRATEGY?



The Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Community and Social Services have asked the organizations in Halton Region who work with children with special needs to come together to plan two strategies:

1. Coordinated Service Planning
2. The Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services.

These new strategies will mark the beginning of a new way of delivering services to children and youth with special needs and their families. First steps of the **Special Needs Strategy** include:

- ❖ **Identifying children's needs earlier and getting them the right help sooner;** A new developmental screen for preschool children has been developed that will help identify potential risks to children's development and connect them with the services they need as early as possible.
- ❖ **Coordinated family-centered service planning for children and youth with multiple and/or complex needs;** Service planning coordinators will connect families to a range of services and supports and help the family to develop one coordinated service plan.
- ❖ **An integrated approach to the delivery of rehabilitation services;** Children and youth will receive seamless and effective speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy services from birth through school exit. These services will be built around their goals for home, school and the community and be delivered in the way and in the place that meets the needs of the child and family.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY VOICE...

The organizations involved in the planning for Halton Region recognize that families must be engaged and involved in creating this new vision. In the near future, we will be asking families who are caring for children with multiple and complex special needs and/or who are accessing the support of occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and speech and language therapy what would be important for them in this new approach. More information will be released soon. If you have any questions, please contact:

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For More Information Visit: The Special Needs Strategy Website at:

<http://specialneedsstrategy.children.gov.on.ca>

SPECIAL NEEDS STRATEGY: THE VISION

"An Ontario where children and youth with special needs get the timely and effective services they need to participate fully at home, at school, in the community, and as they prepare to achieve their goals for adulthood".

PLANNING TABLE MEMBERS

Leaders from across the education, health and children/youth service sectors:

- District School Boards/School Authorities
- Community Care Access Centres
- Local Health Integration Networks
- Agencies funded to provide inter-agency service coordination
- Preschool Speech and Language Program Lead Agencies
- Children's Treatment Centres
- Autism Intervention Program Lead Agencies
- Applied-Behaviour Analysis-based Services and Supports Lead Agencies