

Program Description

Children's Inclusion Support Services (CISS) provides supports, in English and in French, to licensed child care programs (nursery schools, child care centres and home child care agencies) that promote the inclusion of children with special needs, between 6 weeks to 12 years of age, within the City of Ottawa.

As defined in the Child Care and Early Years Act, a child with special needs is "a child with a physical, mental or developmental impairment that is likely to continue for a prolonged period of time and is verified by objective psychological or medical findings."

The services provided by CISS include consultation through our various consultant roles. Resource Consultants provide consultative support on an ongoing basis to the various child care programs through recommendations and by suggesting strategies for adapting activities, and by providing training to ensure a positive inclusion experience for everyone. Using a team approach, the Resource Consultant facilitates the development of a functional Team Service Plan.

Behaviour Consultants provide consultative support, in collaboration with the Resource Consultants, to child care program teaching teams to assist in the development of skills to meet the challenging behavioural needs of children.

Professional Development opportunities are also available for child care program teaching teams as it relates to building capacity in meeting the diverse needs of children through our consultants. The goal is to share knowledge and support teaching teams in developing their skills and confidence by accessing training. Training whole teams with the Module Series, created by CISS, supports setting the stage for high quality inclusive child care with a direct outcome of a proactive action plan to effect necessary changes. Other training or in-services can be provided to address specific professional development areas as it relates to inclusion or a particular diagnosis. Modelling and coaching of supportive strategies will also be provided directly in the child care environments.

When the need for further support is identified by the program, other resources such as Enhanced Staff Support Funding for additional staffing support, based on the eligibility criteria may be provided. Toys, equipment, DVD's and reference books are also available to support specific and expressed needs of the teaching teams.

CISS is funded by the City of Ottawa and managed by the Board of Directors of Andrew Fleck Children's Services (AFCS) through an appointed Advisory Committee made up of members of the Board of AFCS, parents/guardians and individuals from the community.