

INFORMATION LETTER

Occupational Therapy – Partnering for Change

Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

Réseau local d'intégration des services de santé (RLISS) du Centre-Ouest



Dear Parents / Guardians:

In the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, staff and families work together to foster the continuous development of all through a caring, safe and inclusive environment. Together with Central West Local Health Integration Network (CW LHIN), the Dufferin-Peel community is continuing with the integrated occupational therapist (OT) model of support for elementary students. This model provides educational opportunities for teachers to learn more about how children develop motor skills and how they can promote motor skill development through classroom activities. In this model, the OT works in the school with select students. She/He assists teachers, where appropriate, in learning more about motor development in all children and how to help children who may be having difficulty with some motor skills.

OTs are health professionals who work with children in many different settings and who have an expertise in fine and gross motor skill development. Fine motor skills are related to tasks such as printing and writing, cutting with scissors, opening juice boxes and doing up zippers. Gross motor skills include activities like jumping, getting onto the school bus, climbing stairs and running.

As you may know, the school has a team of staff (resource teachers, support services staff) who work with educators to help students achieve their greatest potential. The OT will be part of the school team process and will be in the school on a scheduled basis. She/He will spend time in the classrooms, gym, and playground. She/He will observe children and work with school staff to offer instructional methods that may make it easier for children to learn and engage in motor-based activities. If the OT feels that your child is continuing to have difficulty learning new motor skills, more than is typical for his/her age, she/he or another member of the school team will contact you.

The OT will be working at the school with the broader school team and will be available to teachers to provide support as needed. She/He will work with teachers to share useful information and ideas that support student learning. Educational sessions may be offered for families as well – look for information in the school newsletter.

We look forward to working together with you. If you have concerns about your child's ability to do motor-based activities at home, feel free to contact the OT through your child's teacher. If you have any questions about this service, please talk with your child's principal. You may also contact the Pediatric Intake Care Coordinator at the Central West LHIN: 905-796-0040 or 1-888-733-1177 at x7765.

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