



Integrated Children's Services

Community Team
3 – 139 Tuxedo Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3N 0H6

Hospital Team – Children's Hospital
840 Sherbrook Street
Winnipeg, MB R3A 1S1

INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAM

WINNIPEG

Integrated Children's Services (ICS) is a voluntary program delivered by the Department of Family Services and Housing (FSH) and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) to support families in parenting a child with complex medical and developmental needs.

A Lead Service Coordinator (LSC) will be assigned to work with families to provide support and to assist them in coordinating services for their family. The ICS Program uses a Family Centred Approach, recognizing that parents as the primary caregivers are the primary source of information about their child and family's needs. The LSC will discuss with families their needs, goals and priorities and can offer information about services available through ICS, as well as other services and systems that may be helpful to the family. The LSC, together with the family and other service providers will attempt to find solutions or paths of service to address those needs.

The LSC is a professional with either a nursing or social work background and works in a team to ensure that services in both disciplines are available to meet the family's needs. A LSC will remain involved with the family for as long as they require ICS involvement or until their child turns 18. The LSC will be involved and can offer information through the many life transitions that the family and child will go through. The LSC will be available to assist families in completing a variety of forms to help them access services such as nursing support, supplies, special equipment needs, daycare/nursery school, transition to school entry, summer recreational programs, Age of Majority Planning (to prepare for your child's transition to adulthood). If services are being provided by a number of agencies, the LSC can, if the family wishes, act as a coordinator of these teams and may schedule from time to time, team meetings to ensure services remain focused on the goals established for the child and family.

Some of the service options available through ICS are briefly described below. Service needs are identified through an assessment process.

1. Nursing Respite Services may be offered to provide relief from the ongoing medical care needs of your child. A nurse may be assigned to take care of the child to enable

parents to go out or to allow them time to do other tasks including spending uninterrupted time with your other children. **Nursing Resource Coordinators** recruit and hire nurses and coordinate their hours of work. In addition to the Respite Program a **Visiting Nurse** may visit in the family's home. These short visits are designed to provide care and assessment that cannot be provided by the family (i.e. complex wound care). The child's medical team (which includes parents as well as the LSC) will determine whether nursing support is required. The amount of nursing support offered is dependent on the family's assessed needs as well as the availability of nurses.

2. **Early Child Intervention:** These are programs for children aged 0-6, prior to school entry when there are concerns regarding a child's development.

The Child Development Program is an early intervention program for eligible preschool children from birth to kindergarten school entry. This early intervention encompasses all areas of a child's development - language, cognitive, gross & fine motor, social/emotional, sensory. The intervention is provided by a **Child Development Counsellor**. The LSC can make this referral on the family's behalf. Intervention may be provided in the home and/or in a preschool program that the child attends.

If the preschool child would benefit from therapy services such as Physiotherapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT) or Speech/Language (S/L) Services, the SC can make a referral to the **Provincial Outreach Therapy for Children (POT-C Program.)** Again, these services can be provided in the child's home or in a daycare/nursery school setting. Note: If the child is receiving hospital based services in any of the above therapies (PT, OT, SLP) families can choose to continue hospital based services or opt for community based services through POT-C. The LSC, as well as the therapist involved with the child can help families to determine which option best meets the child's needs.

If families are interested in having the child attend a daycare or preschool program, the LSC can provide information and help them to apply for the supports that may be needed through the **Manitoba Childcare Office**.

3. **Respite:** In recognition that parenting a child with complex medical and developmental needs may place additional demands and stresses on the family, respite may be provided to enable families to "get a break". The Respite Program has **Respite Coordinators (RC's)** who recruit, hire and match **Respite Workers (RW)** to provide temporary respite care for children with special needs. Respite is most often provided in the child's home (for the child with special needs as well as for the child's siblings if parents wish).

Respite Workers may be obtained through the Respite Program or families may recommend someone they know to be hired by the Respite Program to provide respite for their family. Other respite options include self managed respite and out of home respite. These options can be discussed with the LSC.

ICS also contracts with private agencies as another means of providing respite care.

The amount of respite the family receives is dependent on assessed needs, which are determined in a joint process, with the LSC, as well as on the availability of resources.

4. **Behavioural Services:** When a child with special needs/disabilities has behavioural issues which interfere with functioning in his/her environment such as the family home, day care or community activity, families may wish to discuss with your LSC, a referral for a Behaviour Specialist to help with the child's challenging behaviour.

5. **Other Service Options:** Dependent on assessed needs and budget availability services may include:

- **Consumable items** - the assessment for this need takes into consideration that the requirement for this item is based on the child's exceptional needs (e.g. diapers for a child after the age of 3 when that need is the result of a child's special needs, medical supplies).
- Certain types of **equipment** purchases required to enable the child to function as independently as possible at home and in the community.
- On a limited basis minor **home modifications** required to make the home accessible for and directly related to the child's disability.
- **Transportation** - in extenuating circumstances when a parent is not able to provide transportation due to the child's special needs.
- Staffing support for school age children to attend a **summer recreation/camp** may be available for up to one week of residential (overnight) camp or two weeks of day camp. Arranging for an individualized program may also be a possibility.
- **After school care** to support parent employment for adolescent children for whom daycare is no longer an appropriate option and no other care options are available.

The LSC is knowledgeable about the above services offered through ICS, as well as other community resources that may be helpful in parenting your child with special needs. For example referrals can be made for psychiatric consultation and support. Referrals can be made for participation in the **Family Care Program** at St. Amant to provide support when there are many complicating factors in managing your child's special needs.

ICS is not a mandated program. Assessed eligibility does not confer entitlement of service. Services are dependent on available resources (funding and personnel). ICS will not duplicate services available to families which are available to them and are generic and/or cost free (i.e. insurance coverage, services provided by other departments such as Health, Education, etc.) Supports are available until the child turns 18 or as long as the child remains eligible for supports through Integrated Children's Services.