



Child Care Provider – Special Needs Resourcing Consultation Statement of Relationship

INDEX

Overview	page 1
Role of PIRS	page 1
Role of Licensed Child Care Provider	page 2
The Role of the Classroom Teacher/Child Care Provider	page 3
The Role of the PIRS Resource Consultant	page 4
The Role of the Enhanced Program Support Worker	page 5
PIRS Referrals	page 6
Continued Placement Protocol	page 6

Overview

As community partners, it is important that PIRS Special Needs Resourcing Programs and Child Care Providers work together with a clear understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities to promote inclusion for all children. This statement of relationship describes these roles and responsibilities.

Role of PIRS

Peel Inclusion Resource Services (PIRS) is a partnership of special needs resourcing programs and agencies that facilitate early intervention and the successful inclusion of children who have special needs, into licensed child care programs in Peel. Our goal is to ensure that children who have special needs receive the early intervention services they need to participate fully in child care programs and that child care providers receive the support and professional development training they need to include all children to have positive early childhood education experiences. In addition, PIRS Resource Consultants provide support to the child's family to receive the community services and supports they need/want and to which they are entitled. In order to qualify for PIRS Resource Consultation Services, the child must be a resident of Peel and attending, or planning to attend, a licensed child care program that meets the quality standards and guidelines acceptable to the Ministry of Education Child Care Licensing Legislation, and if associated, with the Region of Peel, Early Learning Services and Raising the Bar.

Role of Licensed Child Care Provider

Licensed child care providers in Peel offer opportunities for children to optimize their learning and development (social/emotional, physical and cognitive) through play. Quality early learning can help to prepare children to become more resilient through life's changes and stages. Child Care Providers play an integral role in the early development of every child in their program, and as such are important partners in the PIRS Model. Child Care Providers are often the first to recognize that a child is in need of early intervention, or that a family may be struggling.

“Many social programs support families, but child care is the backbone of them all.”
Source: Preschool Children: Promises to Keep: a Report. Ottawa: The Council, 1999. Print.

In order to receive PIRS Resource Consultant support, it is expected that the Child Care Provider:

- Welcomes and includes all children,
- Is licensed under the Ministry of Education (Day Nurseries Act)
- Offers a program which provides children with opportunities to learn, play, make choices and develop confidence and positive self-esteem,
- Is flexible and works cooperatively with the PIRS Resource Consultant,
- Is willing to make reasonable program modifications as needed to ensure every child is included in the program,
- Allows program staff/home child care provider to work with the PIRS Resource Consultant, and the child's family, in the process of planning and implementing individualized developmental goals and strategies to support a positive child care experience,
- Expects the program staff/home child care provider to take an active role in documentation and provide feedback to the PIRS Resource Consultant, regarding the child's progress towards meeting his/her goals,
- Works together with the child's parents and the PIRS Resource Consultant to ensure a smooth transition at discharge or into the school system, and
- Does not already have a Resource Teacher/Special Education Teacher on staff (duplication of services).

The Role of the Classroom Teacher/Child Care Provider

The role of the Classroom Teacher/Child Care Provider is the most significant in the early intervention process for any child, including a child with special needs. Classroom Teachers are the consistent people in the child's day and are responsible for the care and well-being of all of the children in the child care program. The role of the Classroom Teacher/Child Care Provider is to:

- Work directly with the child.
- Model behaviour and expectations that demonstrate a belief that all children belong.
- Identify children who may benefit for Special Needs Resource Consultation.
- Be the primary contact for the child's family in matters that relate to the program curriculum and the care provided to the child.
- Develop an appropriate curriculum to meet the needs of all of the children in the program, and modify this curriculum so that all children are able to participate fully. If a child is not included in any part of the program, work towards changes that will enable inclusion.
- Participate in ongoing professional development and welcome input from the PIRS Resource Consultant and other professionals involved with the child.
- Participate in Individual Program Planning Meetings and actively work towards goals set out in the child's plan. It is the Classroom Teacher/Child Care Provider's responsibility to document the child's progress towards meeting the goals identified in the plan.
- Engage in two-way communication with the PIRS Resource Consultant by sharing ideas, knowledge and strategies and work co-operatively to meet the child's goals.
- Facilitate peer interactions and the development of personal relationships between children.
- Encourage communication with the child's parents through daily contact and other methods i.e., communication books and parent meetings.
- Include the PIRS Resource Consultant in discussions that will create change for the child or cause disruption to the child's regular day, i.e., special visitors, trips and classroom teacher changes.
- Be aware of the child care program's behaviour policy and ensure its consistent use.
- Be understanding of the child's difficulty in learning, social/emotional needs and ability to communicate, and modify rules/policies when appropriate so that each child feels successful and positive about the child care experience.

The Role of the PIRS Resource Consultant

PIRS Resource Consultants are experienced Early Childhood Educators who have had specialized training in the areas of child development, inclusion, children’s mental health and early intervention modifications. They provide a wide range of supports and services to children and their families. The role of the PIRS Resource Consultant includes:

- Completes Intake and Referral process to SNAP-PIRS with parental consent.
- Providing information and general strategies to Child Care Providers about child development and community resources for providers and families, e.g., professional development, toys/resources, parent workshops, recreation programs, nutrition, etc.
- Heightening staff awareness, knowledge and confidence in teaching children who have special needs and provide information regarding general disability issues.
- Working in collaboration with the Classroom Teacher(s)/Child Care Provider to ensure an optimal learning environment for all children.
- Providing ongoing consultation around classroom wide strategies to support the inclusion of all children within the environment. Consultation may include coaching and informal supports to staff for children who are not formally on the Resource Consultant’s formal “caseload”.
- Training and modeling teaching strategies for Classroom Teacher(s)/Child Care Provider offering training through workshops, “Lunch & Learn” sessions, ongoing coaching and providing resources/materials when appropriate, to promote child development and benefit all children in the Child Care Program.
- Meeting with families to support the transfer of strategies to the home environment and may provide toys and resources that will encourage healthy child development outcomes. Providing “family support” by offering information about community resources, and assistance to secure funding programs and other supports or services that may benefit the child and his/her family, as required.
- Making regular visits to child care programs to heighten staff awareness, knowledge and confidence in supporting children who have special needs. Frequency of these visits will vary depending upon the child’s needs, the needs of the Child Care Provider and the PIRS Resource Consultant’s schedule.
- Determining the child’s strengths and needs by using a variety of developmental/environmental tools which will indicate supports necessary to encourage progress in all areas of the child’s development (for each child on the PIRS Resource Consultant’s formal caseload).

- Developing Individual Program Plans for each child identified on the PIRS Resource Consultant's formal caseload, in partnership with the child's family, Classroom Teacher(s)/Child Care Provider and other professionals involved with the child.
- Liaising with therapists, doctors and other professionals involved with the child and his/her family. The PIRS Resource Consultant will coordinate referrals and consultation visits from other service providers or may seek support from the PIRS Resource Consultant Support Team as required. The PIRS Resource Consultant will also schedule Individual Program Planning or information sharing meetings with parents, the Child Care Provider and other professionals as needed.
- Meeting with Classroom Teacher/Child Care Provider on a regular basis to review the Individual Program Plan, progress and next steps.
- Maintaining up-to-date records for each child identified on the PIRS Resource Consultant's formal caseload. In order to monitor the child's progress towards meeting long and short-term goals the Resource Consultant will maintain on-going progress notes, records of any meetings pertaining to the child and any recommendations made by other professionals involved (e.g., Speech, Occupational Therapy, Behavioural Intervention, etc.).
- Providing a Discharge Summary Report when the child is no longer receiving formal services/support from the PIRS Resource Consultant, or when the child transitions into the school system.

The Role of the Enhanced Program Support Worker

The PIRS Enhanced Program Support staff provides an “extra set of hands” to support inclusion of all children in the child care program. This extra person supports implementation of the agreed goals that have been collaboratively developed by the child care team, with guidance from the PIRS Resource Consultant. The role of the Enhanced Program Support Worker includes:

- Using a team approach to assist the child care provider to develop skills in order to build capacity
- Participating in on-going professional learning and development, and
- Supporting a positive communication approach

The PIRS Enhanced Program Support is not counted in staff ratios and is not intended to be a 1:1 worker or be solely responsible for a child or group of children.

Enhanced Program staffing is only available on a short term basis, and is only to be considered after other strategies have been implemented and reviewed.



PIRS Referrals

Resource Consultants and Child Care Providers work collaboratively with families to make appropriate referrals to SNAP-PIRS for Special Needs Resourcing.

The Resource Consultant can provide the Child Care Provider with information to support the Intake and Referral process.

Continued Placement Protocol:

What do we do when a child's placement in child care is at risk?

Sometimes difficulties arise and a Child Care Provider may feel that a child's placement is at risk. Discussions about concerns and action planning need to involve the child's parents, Child Care Providers, and the PIRS Resource Consultant. Together they have a responsibility to ensure that all appropriate steps and supports are implemented before a child's family is asked to withdraw their child from the Child Care Program.

PIRS has developed a process to support the Child Care Provider and the child's parents, to address issues early on. PIRS Resource Consultants can assist informally, by providing general recommendations and strategies for the classroom, workshops and educational materials, etc. to promote successful inclusion, and can provide the Child Care Provider with a copy of the PIRS Continued Placement Protocol and recommended steps to address concerns. Should the need arise, the PIRS Resource Consultant may recommend a referral to PIRS Intake for ongoing formal resource consultation.

The Child Care Provider is expected to make every reasonable effort to support the child and his/her family to remain in the Program. Our goal is to facilitate the successful inclusion of all children into licensed child care programs in Peel.