

Special Education



Who is on the Connections Team?

The Connections Team may include:

- Parents or guardians
- School Principal or Vice-Principal
- Your child's teacher
- TDSB Connections staff from Special Education and SSP
- Connections staff from Surrey Place
- Other professionals, determined on an individual basis

Contact Information

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CONNECTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Helping Your Child Transition
Successfully from
AUTISM INTERVENTION PROGRAMS
to SCHOOL



Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
And
School Support Program (SSP)
Surrey Place Centre

What is CONNECTIONS for Students?

Connections for Students (CFS) is a program developed by the *Ministry of Children and Youth Services* and the *Ministry of Education* to facilitate the transition of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) from Autism Intervention Programs (AIP) to school.

What are the Goals of CONNECTIONS for Students?

- To ensure your child's transition from the AIP to school is as smooth as possible
- To share information and plan collaboratively
- To support a positive relationship between parent and school
- To provide a process for the transfer of important skills acquired in the AIP setting to the school setting



How Does CONNECTIONS for Students Work?

CFS staff is notified about your child's discharge date approximately six months ahead of time.

Before discharge from AIP:

You are contacted by the TDSB for a Consent Signing meeting and if you give consent the process continues. CFS staff gather all the necessary information about your child's strengths, challenges, interests, progress, successful strategies, and resources being used and begin to plan the transition.

How is this done?

- Visits to your child's AIP
- Meetings with parents/guardians
- Discussions with staff in the AIP
- Review of assessment, service plans and progress reports
- Visits to the child's school
- Meetings with school staff
- Adapting and/or preparing necessary resources

After discharge from AIP:

CFS staff continue to work with parents and school staff for approximately 6 months after full time school begins.

What does this look like?

- Regular contact with parents and school staff
- Meetings to update progress and next steps
- Classroom visits by CFS staff
- Targeted Professional Learning
- Ongoing communication with School Support Team members

After this 6 month period, school staff may contact the Special Education Department if further assistance is needed.

