The information in this brochure is brought to you by the TCDSB in collaboration with:

SURREY PLACE



How can I get more information about Connections for Students?

For more information, please contact:
Connections for Students Support Service
for Students with Autism

416 222-8282 ext. 72799

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80 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M2N 6E8
416-222-8282 | www.tcdsb.org

Toronto Catholic District School Board

SPECIAL SERVICES
AUTISM PROGRAMS & SERVICES









CONNECTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

Helping Students Transition from the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) to School

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."
Ephesians 4:32

What is "Connections for Students"?

Connections for Students is a free of charge joint initiative of the Ontario Ministries of Education and Children, Community and Social Services, intended to facilitate the transition of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder from the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) to school. This initiative partners school boards and OAP providers.

The Connections initiative is meant to:

- make the transition from the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) to school as smooth as possible;
- ensure that the school and teacher have the information about the student's strengths and needs and strategies that have helped in the OAP;
- work to transfer skills acquired in the OAP;
- support continued learning of new and useful skills.

Who are the members of the Connections team?

The Connections team is multidisciplinary, and includes:

1. **Parents/Guardians**
2. **School Principal**
3. **Teacher**
4. **TCDSB Connections for Students Staff**
5. **Surrey Place School Support Program Staff**
6. **Other Professionals** - as determined on an individual basis

How is the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) involved in the Connections for Students initiative?

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is participating in this initiative and is partnered with Surrey .

How does Connections for Students work?

Once the family has completed the intake process, and if approved, board staff are informed of the child's enrollment and the specifics of their OAP Core Services. A transition team is formed, which includes parents, school staff and TCDSB and Surrey Place staff from the Connections team.

Before discharge from the OAP, and with parental consent, Connections for Students staff gather necessary information about the child's program, strategies and resources which are needed as part of the program. This process will involve activities such as:

- discussion with OAP staff;
- gathering and review of assessments, service plans and reports;
- visits to the child's school and/or OAP centre, as needed;
- meetings with parents;
- meetings with school staff;
- acquiring/preparing needed resources and materials.

Connections for Students staff work with the school staff to ensure that they have the needed information, collaborate in planning and implementation of the child's program.

After discharge from the OAP, the Connections for Students staff continue to provide support to the school, as needed. This is individualized to the student. Once the Connections for Students process has ended, the school can contact the Autism Team, as needed.