

## KidsInclusive School Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) - Tiered Service for Occupational Therapy (2025-2026)

Occupational Therapists (OT) in our SBRS program, in collaboration with our school boards, have now fully implemented OT services rooted in the principles of Universal Design into all classrooms (kindergarten – grade 8 classrooms, kindergarten – grade 12 special education classrooms, and at the secondary level, upon request by the school team).

Occupational Therapists are health professionals who work with children in many different settings and have expert understanding of fine motor (printing, cutting), gross motor (jumping, throwing), self-care (putting on coat, zippers, opening packages), and self-regulation (being able to control emotions and actions) development.

Collaboration is at the core of the tiered model. In Tier 1, the OT is available to support teachers, ECEs, and EAs in a variety of ways such as:

- Visiting the classroom: Educators can invite the OT into their classroom to observe students as they participate in an activity. This would enable the OT to offer strategies and activities to schools staff to support development in the realms above.
- Whole class support: At times, there may be opportunities for the OT to support an activity center or lead a whole class lesson (i.e., fine motor craft, printing task). The OT may also speak with you about a series of visits to target an identified need in your classroom (i.e., self-regulation, pre-printing skills). The classroom team can consult with the OT to discuss different options available at your school.
- Consulting with the OT at a mutually convenient time: The OT at your school can meet with school staff (in-person or virtually) to provide consultation that may include suggesting materials, tools, resources, and activity ideas to support the development and classroom participation of **all** students.
- Providing resources: The SBRS OT not only has a wealth of knowledge, they also have fantastic resources that they are happy to share. Please reach out to your SBRS OT if you are looking for resource support. The classroom teacher may then share the provided resources directly with families. *Check out this link for [The OT Classroom](#) for additional strategies and practice opportunities for use at home or school!*

### How Can Teachers Access SBRS OT Tier 1 support?

Simple – just ask the SBRS OT who supports your school. The OT will be happy to set up a time to meet with you, visit the classroom, or provide resources. Teachers are asked to send the *OT Tiered Model – letters for families* to their students' families prior to the OT visit. This essential step allows families to opt out of the service, should they choose. Please advise your SBRS OT of any family choosing to opt out prior to their visit.

### What if a student still needs direct OT service?

Some students who have been identified as requiring more direct OT service at school entry (e.g. equipment or safety needs) will be placed directly into Tier 2 or Tier 3 services. Otherwise, students will begin with Tier 1 OT support, and through this service delivery model, some may be identified by educators and OTs as requiring more direct OT service. School staff **in collaboration with the SBRS OT** can make this determination, at which point, a referral for direct OT service can be initiated by school staff with parent consent.

For questions regarding SBRS services please call Lesley Clifford, System Navigator at 613 544 3400 ext. 3314