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## *Purpose*

Physiotherapy is a professional health discipline primarily directed toward the prevention and alleviation of movement dysfunction to promote maximal independence for the student in his/her home, school and community.

Physiotherapists provide services to children with orthopedic, neurological, muscular, spinal, joint or sensory dysfunction.

These services include assistance in physical positioning to promote optimal physical access, assistance in maximizing independence for students who have limited mobility, and prevention and alleviation of movement dysfunction.

The services performed by a physiotherapist in schools may include screening, assessment, consultation, program planning, and assistance in diagnosis, treatment, equipment selection/adaptation, administration, education and research.

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## *Description of Services*

Physical disabilities and development delays may be noted in students who have other special needs, but they can also occur in isolation. Not all students with physical disabilities or delays will require physical therapy or consultation.

Referrals should be handled through the school-based team management process, to ensure that appropriate services are considered for every child.

A student's needs in the area of physiotherapy services should be determined by the appropriate health professionals after reviewing reports, interviewing parents or guardians, observing and assessing the learner's needs, and consulting with education staff and/or appropriate medical personnel.

Educators and therapists should collaborate to optimize the student's physical functioning and to integrate the student's therapeutic goals within all the student's educational routines.

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## *Access to Physiotherapy Services*

Services may include:

- ✓ screening/assessment;
- ✓ consultation for school staff/families;
- ✓ training of staff to carry out routines for optimal maintenance of students in classroom settings during the school day;
- ✓ monitoring and ongoing evaluation of students in classroom settings.
- ✓ When "direct" service (i.e. direct treatment) is required, either temporarily or long-term, the student's physician makes a referral to a community-based physiotherapist.



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## *Physiotherapy Services May Include:*

- ✓ assessing the educational environment to prevent, modify, or alleviate barriers to improve independence;
  - ✓ suggesting functional activities or alternative methods to improve physical capabilities;
  - ✓ providing information about proper lifting techniques for lifting, handling, transferring students, back care;
  - ✓ recommending adaptations to physical education activities and recreation programs;
  - ✓ assisting with transitions to a new school or environment;
  - ✓ interpreting medical information and its implications to the student;
  - ✓ referring appropriate community or medical services/resources.
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### *Contact Information*

Your Child's School

Or

Director of Learning

Learning Support Services

SD 10 (Arrow Lakes)

School Board Office

98 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW

Nakusp, BC

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LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES

PHYSIOTHERAPY  
SERVICES



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