

# SPECIAL SERVICES AT HOME (SSAH) FACT SHEET



The Special Services at Home (SSAH) program helps families who are caring for a child with a developmental and/or physical disability. It is funded and managed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Funding provided through SSAH helps families pay for special services in or outside the family home to:

- **Help their child learn new skills and abilities, such as improving their communication skills and becoming more independent; and/or**
- **Provide respite support to the family - families can receive funding to pay for services that will give them a break, or respite, from the day-to-day care of their child.**

## **WHAT IS RESPITE?**

Families may have additional responsibilities in caring for a child with a disability. SSAH provides funding for respite or PRIMARY CAREGIVER relief and related supports. While the child with a disability will likely benefit from such support, the primary goal is to help the family to meet their identified needs

Respite enhances the PRIMARY CAREGIVER'S capacity to provide care for the family member with a disability living at home through the provision of INDIRECT ASSISTANCE. Indirect Assistance can help provide relief to the primary caregiver so that they may take some time away from care-giving, or from one or more of their other responsibilities.

## **WHO CAN I HIRE?**

- A respite worker that you hire on your own
- A worker employed through an agency
- A family member who is over the age 18 and NOT the primary caregiver, parent, step parent or spouse

**For help finding a worker and for more information on services in your community please go to [www.respiteservices.com](http://www.respiteservices.com)**

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## **HOW CAN I USE MY SSAH FUNDING?**

### **You can use your SSAH funding for the following services:**

- Mainstream camp/recreation programs
- Specialized camp/recreation programs
- Advertising for recruitment of a special services worker
- Special Services/Support worker to provide respite and/or personal development
- Travel costs associated with transporting special needs child for the worker
- Basic supplies to implement a program for the special needs child (e.g: Flash cards)
- Membership fees for special needs associations (Special Olympics, Down Syndrome Association.)
- 1:1 support worker at camp or recreational program
- Training for a family member or worker that enhances the understanding of the child with a disability's needs
- Extraordinary cost of childcare (for children aged 12 and above)
- Nursing for medically fragile children
- Routine homemaking tasks – light housecleaning, meal preparation, laundry, grass cutting, and snow removal
- Gym membership fees for the special needs child
- Daycare/nursery school as respite or if recommended for socialization

### **You cannot use your SSAH funding for the following services:**

- Tutoring and academic programs
- Camp fees for siblings
- Basic care (i.e. clothing, food, diapers, routine medical costs)
- One-time admission costs (i.e. movies, amusement parks, museums)
- Regular child care fees for children under 12 years
- Fees and tuition costs for education and employment
- Assistive devices, specialized equipment, home modifications
- Dental Services
- 1:1 support in a school setting
- Professional services: junior and senior therapists (e.g. IBI, ABA, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy)
- Sports equipment
- Electronics (i.e. phones, computers, tablets)

**Please contact your Special Agreements Officer if you are unsure if an expense is eligible for reimbursement.**