

Who are the members of the Connections team?

The Connections team is multidisciplinary, and includes:

- parents
- the school principal
- your child's teacher
- TCDSB Connections for Students staff
- Surrey Place Centre Connections for Students staff
- other professionals, as determined on an individual basis



How can I get more information about Connections for Students?

For more information, contact:

Connections for Students

Support Service for Students with Autism
Toronto Catholic District School Board
416 222-8282 ext. 2685



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Connections for Students

Helping Your Child

Make the Transition

from the

*Autism Intervention Program
(AIP) to School*

Toronto Catholic District School Board

and

Surrey Place Centre



What is “Connections for Students”?

Connections for Students is an Ontario government initiative, intended to facilitate the transition of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders from Autism Intervention Programs (AIPs) to school. This initiative partners school boards and AIP providers.

The Connections initiative is meant to:

- make your child's transition from the Autism Intervention Program (AIP) to school as smooth as possible
- ensure that your child's school and teacher know about his or her skills and difficulties and about the teaching strategies that have helped him or her learn in the AIP
- make sure that your child maintains the gains that were made in the AIP
- support continued learning of new and useful skills



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

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is participating in this initiative, and has as its partner Surrey Place Centre, the lead agency in Toronto for the provision of AIPs.

How does Connections for Students work?

Your child's AIP provider lets the Connections team know about your child's discharge date approximately six months ahead of time.

Before discharge from the AIP, and with parental consent, Connections for Students staff gather necessary information about your child's program, the teaching strategies which have been successful, and the resources which will be needed as part of your child's educational program. This process will involve activities such as:

- visits to your child's AIP
- discussion with AIP staff
- gathering and review of assessments, service plans and progress reports
- visits to your child's school if he or she is already in school part-time
- meetings with parents
- meetings with school staff
- acquiring/preparing needed resources and materials

Connections for Students staff ensure that school staff have the needed information, work with the school staff to plan your child's program, and assist with program implementation as needed.

After discharge from the AIP, the Connections for Students staff continue to support your child's school as they take on the responsibility of providing a program for your child on a full-time basis. This support continues for six months after discharge. Regular contact among parents, the school and the Connections team is part of that support. After the six month period, assistance continues to be available, at the request of the school, from the board's Support Service for Students with Autism.

