



## Therapeutic Referral for Child Care

Children's Services  
City of London  
Child Care Fee Subsidy Program  
151 Dundas Street  
P.O. 5045  
London, ON N6A 4L6

Children's Services of the City of London provides Child Care Fee Subsidy for families living in the City of London, where the children require Child Care while the parent(s) are working, in school, or have received a Therapeutic Referral from a Social Services Source or Health Professional.

### General Information

A Therapeutic Referral for Child Care is appropriate for a family experiencing a significant crisis or challenge. The Referral Source believes that the child's participation in a licensed Child Care Program would alleviate the crisis and / or significantly reduce stress on the family. Therapeutic Referrals may only be made by a Social Service source or Health Professional who is working with the family on an ongoing basis.

Examples of a significant crisis: serious problems affecting the family (addictions, abuse, lack of stable housing, issues involving other siblings or mental health issues) which are negatively impacting on the ability of the parent(s) to care full-time for the child(ren).

A Therapeutic Referral is also appropriate for a child who is waiting for, or receiving specialized intervention for suspected or diagnosed special needs, and for whom participation in a licensed Child Care Program would enhance the therapeutic interventions being provided (or planned).

Children may require Child Care Fee subsidy for optimal growth and development, social/emotional, socialization or speech and language. In these cases, care may be provided to a maximum of 3 days per week.

### General Referral Guidelines

1. Families **must** first complete the Fee Subsidy Application and submit all the required documents. Fee Subsidy eligibility is determined by an income test and having a recognized need such as work, school or a Therapeutic Referral.
2. A completed Therapeutic Referral Form must be submitted by a Referral Source who will be working directly with the family for the duration of the referral.
3. Subsidized Child Care is only available in licensed Child Care Programs (centre based or licensed home) for children up to 12 years.
4.
  - a. Therapeutic Referral Child Care is available for a period of up to six months and only while the Referring Source is working with the child / family. The Referral Source must advise Children's Services if Child Care is no longer required or if they are no longer working with the family. If Child Care is still required after six months, the Referring Source must submit a new Therapeutic Referral Form.
  - b. If you or your child is diagnosed with a documented special need, you may not be required to submit further therapeutic referrals. Our office will determine if additional documentation is required.
5. Families using Therapeutic Referral Child Care must follow all Children's Services policies and procedures, which include reporting changes in the family situation to Children's Services as well as attendance.