

**What Does A Typical Inclusion Outreach Visit Look Like?**

Inclusion Outreach is a BC Ministry of Education Provincial Outreach Program based out of Victoria.

We are a collaborative interdisciplinary team consisting of a teacher, Speech-Language Pathologist and Occupational or Physiotherapist.

Our program philosophy is based on the premise that school programs must be designed and implemented to enhance the student’s current and future quality of life. We use indicators of community presence, choice, competence, respect and inclusion to guide and provide accountability to the student’s educational program. More information about our program philosophy can be found on our website at [www.inclusionoutreach.ca](http://www.inclusionoutreach.ca).

Prior to the visit we collect assessment information and connect with our school-based team counterparts (i.e., the teacher on the team will contact the resource teacher or school-based case manager and the parents; the S-LP on our team contacts your S-LP and our therapist contacts your therapists.

With the parents’ consent, we develop a student-specific website for the school team to use to support the student. As we continue to implement this innovation into our service delivery, websites are being developed when the student’s referral has been accepted. For students on our ongoing caseload websites might be developed at the time of the student visit. The websites replace the three-ring binders our program used to use to develop suggested curriculum and resources to support the student’s school program. The websites are secure and password protected.

Typical visits are scheduled Wednesday through Friday. Our team arrives at the school on Wednesday as early as travel permits. On Wednesday we meet the student and their team. Mostly we observe although (truth be told) we’re pretty hands on and bring big bags of equipment to try out. Sometimes therapists make arrangements to meet each other on the Wednesday or Thursday to touch base and work together. Our teacher makes informal arrangements to meet briefly with the resource teacher, the classroom teacher(s), educational assistant(s) and principal and/or vice-principal.

Wednesday after school we offer two options, neither of which is required. One option is to offer a PATH session for the student and their family. PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) is a person-centered future planning process involving the student, their family, friends, school personnel and community members to envision a positive and possible future for the student. Inclusion Outreach team members are trained and certified PATH facilitators. A PATH session last 2-3 hours and requires advance planning on the part of the school team. Additional information about PATH is also available on our website.

The second option is for us to offer a district inservice. Some districts we visit advertise and put on an afterschool inservice on a topic they choose (e.g., inclusion strategies, communication). These sessions are usually 1 ½ to 2 hours in length and open to teachers, educational assistants, therapists, family members, etc.

All day Thursday we work with the student and their team at school. We try out and model strategies to facilitate inclusion, active participation, communication and learning. We try to be unobtrusive but we are in and out of classrooms with the student throughout the school day.

On Friday morning we hold a three hour meeting with the school team, family, therapists and others to present our suggestions based on our time with the student. Districts agree in advance to provide release time for school staff (i.e., resource teacher, classroom teacher(s) and educational assistant) to attend the meeting.

On Friday afternoon the Inclusion Outreach team leaves to travel home and the school team continues to meet to develop an implementation plan.

Inclusion Outreach will upload reports and resources to the student website and work with the school-based case manager to use the website and provide follow up.