

TRANSFERRING - LIFTING - POSITIONING - REPOSITIONING

Background

Students with significant mobility and positioning challenges require individualized assessment to ensure their safety in the school environment.

Significant mobility and positioning challenges may include the following:

- Ambulating with compromised gait pattern with or without mobility aids or assistance,
- Ambulating with physical assistance of one or two persons,
- Ambulating with mobility aids such as orthotics, crutches, or a walker,
- Requiring a wheelchair or other specialized seating device for positioning and mobility.

Procedures

1. Students with mobility and positioning challenges, and who require transferring or lifting, and positioning, are to be referred to the school-based occupational therapist.
2. The occupational therapist will:
 - 2.1 Carry out an assessment of the student's positioning, mobility, equipment, and environments.
 - 2.2 Determine the type of transferring or lifting method and equipment that is optimum for the student.
 - 2.3 Determine the type of positioning supports that are optimum for the student.
 - 2.4 Provide orientation and training to staff who are involved with the care of the student.
 - 2.5 As applicable, provide training to the student on their role in the transferring, lifting, and positioning procedures.
 - 2.6 Determine what course of action to take in cases when equipment is required, or when existing equipment is no longer meeting the needs of the student.
 - 2.7 Carry out ongoing assessment and follow-up of the student's transferring and lifting method and positioning needs.
 - 2.8 Provide ongoing staff support.

- 2.9 Determine if consultation with GSSD TLR trainers and/or GSSD contract physiotherapist is required.
3. Weight guidelines for manual lifting and determining need for mechanical lifts:
 - 3.1 A one-person manual lift is recommended to lift a student who is non-weight bearing, or who has unreliable weight bearing, and who is under 30 pounds.
 - 3.2 A two-person manual lift is recommended to lift a student who is non-weight bearing, or who has unreliable weight bearing, and who is between 30 pounds and 50 pounds.
 - 3.3 Assessment of a mechanical lift system is required when a student is 50 pounds and over, is non-weight bearing, or has unreliable weight bearing. Two persons are required for all mechanical lifts.
 4. Staff preparedness to ensure safety for self and student being transferred or lifted.
 - 4.1 Per AP 419-2-2.2, clothing should be suitable for the subject of instruction, the work performed, and the occasion.
 - 4.2 Staff are expected to wear flexible clothing and footwear with enclosed toes and heels.
 - 4.3 Staff are expected to annually review the Good Spirit School Division Guidelines for Transferring-Lifting-Positioning -Repositioning Assessment and Implementation of Approaches.

References:

Saskatchewan Association for Safe Workplaces in Health: Transferring, Lifting, Repositioning TLR User Manual. 4th Edition. 2016 Revision.

Good Spirit School Division – Guidelines Transferring – Lifting – Positioning – Repositioning; Assessment and Implementation of Approaches 2021 Revision

Saskatchewan Ministry of Education: Actualizing A Needs-Based Model to Support Student Achievement. Revised and Updated 2015

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