

TRANSFERRING, LIFTING and POSITIONING

Background

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

Significant mobility challenges may include the following:

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

Procedures

1. Students with mobility challenges, and who require transferring, 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 mobility and positioning, equipment and environments.
 - 2.2 Determine the type of transferring or lifting method that is optimum for the student.
 - 2.3 Provide orientation and training to staff who are involved with the care of the student.
 - 2.4 Providing training to the student on his/her role in the transferring and lifting procedures.
 - 2.5 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.
 - 2.6 Carry out ongoing assessment/follow-up of the student's transferring and lifting method.
 - 2.7 Provide ongoing staff support.
 - 2.8 Determine if consultation with 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 transfer 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 transfer 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.

References: Saskatchewan Association for Safe Workplaces in Health: Participant's Handbook, *Client Moving, Transferring-Lifting-Repositioning (TLR)*. April 2011 Saskatchewan Ministry of Education: *Actualizing A Needs-Based Model to Support Student Achievement (2011)* Appendix 339