



The therapist's role within the team is to:

- *develop activities that build skills and independence*
- *strengthen caregiver abilities through coaching and teaching*
- *revise plans according to the child's development and the needs and goals of families or caregivers*
- *support family members and caregivers as they become comfortable with carrying through with therapy activities with their child*
- *assist with transition planning as the child moves into the school system*

### **The Consultative/collaborative model**

Therapy is provided using the Consultative/collaborative model which calls for teamwork. The child and family are at the center of the team because a family's understanding of their child is key to the work of the team. Every team member—parents, siblings, child care providers, therapists, case managers—has an important role to play in supporting the child's growth and development.

Once a need for therapy services has been identified and a referral has been made, the team can begin to:

- *address issues that are important to the family*
- *establish goals for maximizing the child's abilities and meeting family needs*
- *develop program plans to meet these goals*
- *implement plans with support of therapists and revise according to the child's development, caregiver needs, and family concerns*

**"Outreach therapy assists children and caregivers in their own environments."**

### **Who can apply?**

Preschool children, generally up to five years of age, are eligible for service if they meet the criteria outlined by Children's Special Services. This includes children with a:

- *cognitive disability*
- *physical disability*
- *developmental delay*
- *autism spectrum disorders*

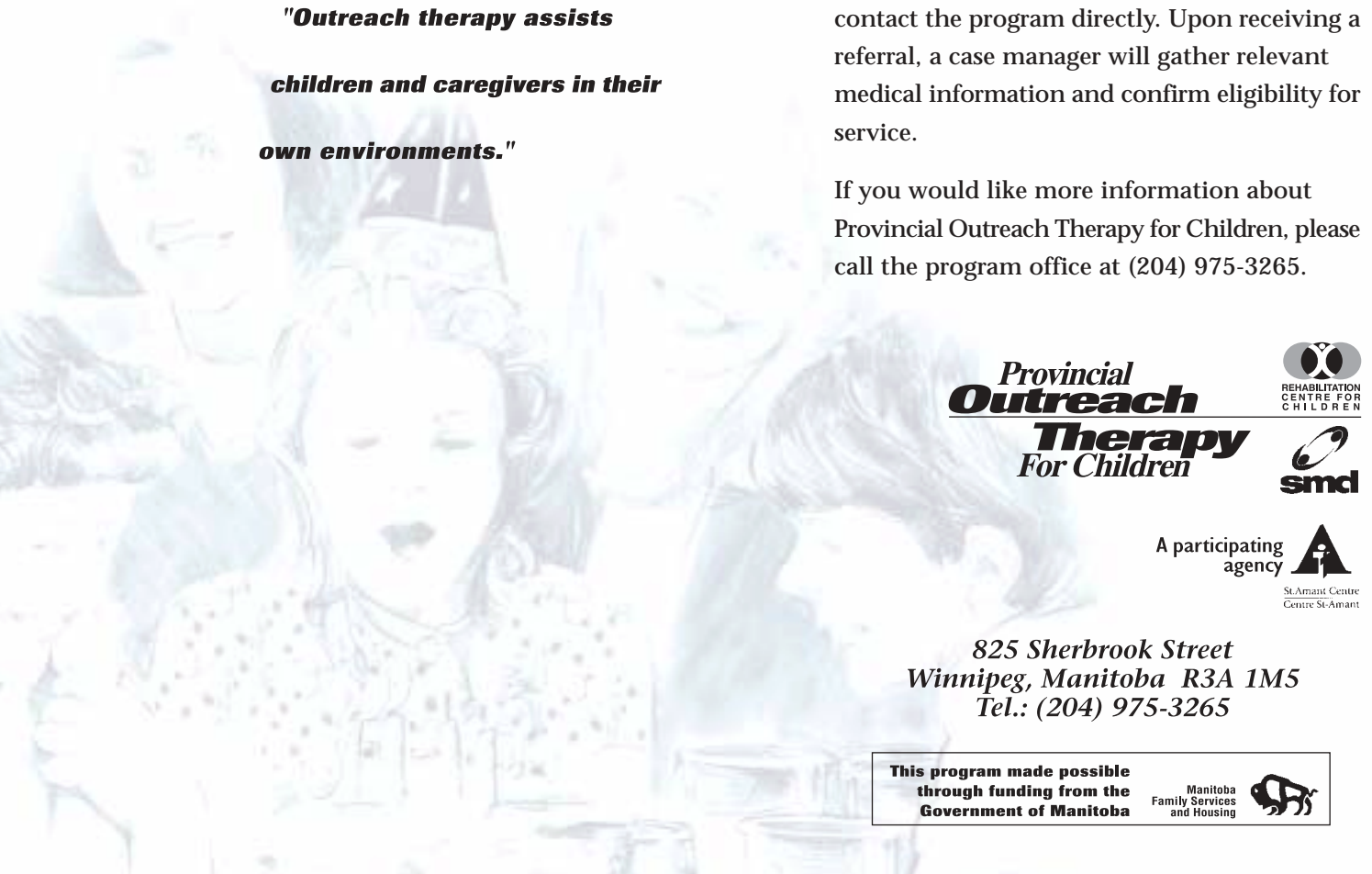
### **How to refer**

A professional (e.g. doctor, therapist) may refer a child to POTC, or a family member may contact the program directly. Upon receiving a referral, a case manager will gather relevant medical information and confirm eligibility for service.

If you would like more information about Provincial Outreach Therapy for Children, please call the program office at (204) 975-3265.

*Families come first.*

**Provincial  
Outreach  
Therapy  
For Children**



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Therapy  
For Children**



A participating agency



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Manitoba Family Services and Housing



## *Children deserve the best*

Children deserve the best preparation for life we can give them. And when a child has special needs, we have the added responsibility of providing the creative and co-ordinated care that will help ensure the brightest possible future for that child.

Whether a child's disability is mild or severe, the key to quality of life is the involvement of both family and professionals. Foremost on the team are parents and child, along with therapists, case managers, other appropriate service agencies and community care givers. A planned program brings the team together to work toward the child's well-being and independence.

### ***Who we are***

Provincial Outreach Therapy for Children (POTC) brings together two long-standing and respected agencies, the Rehabilitation Centre for Children and the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, to serve preschool children with disabilities. St. Amant Centre, another respected leader in the provision of therapy services to children, is part of the team providing services in the City of Winnipeg. Services to eligible preschoolers include:

- *occupational therapy*
- *physiotherapy*
- *speech-language pathology*



Each therapist addresses a different aspect of the child's development. The occupational therapist may encourage the development of fine motor, sensory, or self-care skills. The physiotherapist may work on movement, positioning and handling, or mobility, such as rolling, crawling, or walking. The speech-language pathologist will promote the child's ability to use and understand speech and language.

These services are available to preschoolers and their families living throughout Manitoba. Therapies are provided in the child's daily environment such as the home or child care centre.

***"Reaching out into the community is central to our approach and our success."***

***Teamwork—the consultative/  
collaborative model—means working  
together to find solutions that  
enhance quality of life.***

