

When to Refer a Family to a Special Education Consultant

A one-page guide for therapists and clinicians

Refer when

- School is a significant source of concern
- Learning needs or the learning profile are unclear
- The child is struggling despite tutoring or extra help
- ADHD or executive functioning is affecting school
- Parents cannot read the assessment report
- Parents do not understand the IEP, or whether it is helping
- Parents are unsure what supports the school should provide
- School-family communication has broken down
- A school meeting is coming up and parents feel overwhelmed
- A major school transition is ahead
- The child and the school environment do not match
- The family is considering other educational options
- Clinical recommendations are not reaching the classroom

Listen for

- *The school doesn't understand my child.*
- *We've had meetings, but nothing changes.*
- *I don't know what the assessment actually means.*
- *I don't really understand my child's IEP.*
- *My child has an IEP, but I don't know if it's actually helping.*
- *My child is bright, but they're not keeping up.*
- *Homework takes hours every night.*
- *We're meeting with the school and I don't know what to say.*

A simple rule

"How do we help this child emotionally?" Therapy may be the starting point.

"How do we help this child at school?" Consider an educational consultant.

Both at once? Consider a collaborative referral to therapy plus educational consulting.

Bottom line

- **Educational consultation is not only for children who are failing.**
- **It helps whenever a child's needs and their school environment are mismatched.**
- **It also helps families understand the IEP and take part in planning.**

How to refer

- 1 Share the booking link: the family books a free discovery call.
- 2 Or email with the family's consent and Talia will reach out.
- 3 Reporting back to the referring clinician happens only with the family's consent.
- 4 Virtual across Ontario, in person in the Greater Toronto Area.