

The Daily Living Environment Committee

The Daily Living Environment Committee was created as part of the CRME's on-going commitment to the well-being of children and their families, and is made up of parents and employees of the CRME.

Clients who live in the CRME residence and respite unit are special people who have specific biological, psychological, social and spiritual needs, and require a warm, welcoming and stimulating environment.

A special committee, formed by parents and employees, developed a charter titled *My Daily Life Charter* (hyperlien) that was approved by the parents of the residents. Families are immediately encouraged to get involved upon the child's arrival in the unit. Maintaining contact with family members allows for staff to become more familiar with the child, and factors into the child's adjustment to his/her new living quarters.

"It is not about filling a bed; it is about receiving a child".

The "daily living environment" concept is important. The quality of life, comfort and well-being of the children are always of concern to rehabilitation workers. After all, the unit is their home.

Why Such a Committee

- ☺ To make on-going improvements to the children's daily living environment;
- ☺ To ensure on-going improvements to the children's quality of life;
- ☺ To affirm our values by injecting the residence and respite unit with some local flavour.
- ☺ To develop a charter that captures the organization's values and that gives a sense of worth to the work accomplished by employees.
- ☺ To give children a place that feels like home.
- ☺ The committee also concerns itself with the "workplace environment" concept because "daily living environment" and "workplace environment" go hand in hand.

The Committee's Objective

- ☺ To develop a charter for the residence and respite unit regarding the children's daily living environment;
- ☺ To ensure that the values of the charter are actioned in everyday practices on a daily basis;
- ☺ To promote the "daily living environment" concept to all employees and families of the residents;
- ☺ To identify objectives related to the children's daily living environment;
- ☺ To inspire the development of special and innovative projects that will make the environment entertaining and that will encourage creativity, flexibility and open-mindedness.

☺ To reflect on our practices.

The Daily Living Environment Committee (hyperlien) ensures that residents live in a comfortable and fulfilling environment, and that they receive the best possible care and services.

The well-being and comfort of the residents are key concerns to unit employees as well as their parents. To make sure that they are comfortable, the following activities are organized:

The Swimming Pool

Swimming is an activity that takes place one evening a week during the supper hour. A unit employee and a certified lifeguard bring the children to the heated pool located on the main floor. Children take turns going to the pool when their health condition allows for it. Parents can also take part in this activity along with their children.

Zoo Therapy

For most of the children, zoo therapy is a favourite. Dogs come in to visit the children twice a month. These hypoallergenic animals have been chosen because of their tender demeanor and their regular exposure to children.

Dr. Clown

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, two Dr. Clowns come to the unit to put on a show and make the children laugh. With their red noses, costumes and funny gadgets, they play the well-known character of Dr. Farfelu.

Music Therapy

For many years now, a retired pianist volunteers at the unit twice a week so that the children can sing and have fun with their families. This activity is greatly appreciated by children of all ages.

The Snoezelen Room

The Snoezelen room is a multisensory room designed to stimulate the children's sense of sight, touch, smell and hearing. It provides them with both stimulation and relaxation. This activity may be combined with aroma therapy and music therapy.

The Christmas Party

In December of each year, unit employees organize a Christmas party for the residents and their families. Santa and the Star Fairy make an appearance to distribute presents to all the children.

The Volunteers

Volunteers pay regular visits to the children. These kind individuals can rock, entertain and take walks with them in the unit or outside on CRME grounds with parental consent.

Recreational Technicians

The recreational technician organizes and supervises individual and group activities (sports, recreational and sociocultural), which aim to enhance the user's well-being and rehabilitation process. This individual also develops recreational programs; shares his/her observations about the user's behaviours and attitudes; participates in assessing the user's needs with regard to equipment; and takes part in a number of meetings.