

# Sparklers Centre of Excellence

## *Sparklers Clinical Services*

Sparklers Foundation provides clinical services that are tailored to meet the unique needs of everyone with autism, other Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), and related needs of their families. Services available include diagnostic evaluations to determine whether an individual has autism, another SEND or a combination of conditions. Support services are offered for individuals and their families through individual intervention services and support groups, parent mentors and parent teaching sessions. Sparklers provides education and training such as workshops for parents, teachers, and other professionals focusing on characteristics of SENDs and intervention strategies. Sparklers offers consultation services to programs such as schools, residential, organisations and healthcare communities serving individuals with autism and other SENDs.

### **Initial Referral and Consultation**

An initial consultation is done either in person, over the phone or through a video session. The focus of this initial meeting is to discuss the family's needs and to direct the family to both appropriate Sparklers services as well as other available services in the community. The initial consultation is the first step to receive services.

*Appointment Type: Consultation*

*Duration: 30 minutes to 1 hour*

*For more Information and Venue: Contact the website or [harriet@sparklersfoundation.org](mailto:harriet@sparklersfoundation.org)*

*Billing: **Free***

### **Diagnostic Evaluation**

Our Clinical Centres provide diagnostic evaluations for children, adolescents, and adults who are thought to have autism and other SENDs but have not yet received a diagnosis. Evaluations typically consists of two visits to the clinic (varies depending upon complexity of case and services provided) and focus on issues of diagnosis and educational/Life coaching programming and intervention.

The evaluation includes caregiver interview; review of medical, social, academic, and developmental history; caregiver questionnaires, and testing sessions with the individual. The individual is directly assessed using state of the art, empirically-based assessment instruments including the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) and The Childhood Autism Rating Scale – 2nd edition (CARS2). Results of the evaluation are shared with the parents during an interpretive conference that is typically held at the end of the diagnostic day. An individualised, written evaluation summary with comprehensive recommendations and resources is mailed to the family.

Due to the needed participation of the parent(s) and the comprehensive nature of a diagnostic evaluation, siblings or other young children, besides the client being evaluated, are not permitted to come to the evaluation. Please make your own arrangements for childcare as our offices cannot provide childcare and children cannot be left unattended in the waiting rooms.

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Assessment for autism and other Special Needs performed by a licensed psychologist and other trained Sparklers Staff.

*Appointment Type: Clinical Evaluation*

*Duration: Visit can last 1.5 hours to 6 hours depending on complexity of case*

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### Parent Support and Education

Sparklers provide parents an opportunity to meet and talk with other parents in a supportive setting. Workshops and teaching sessions focus on parent education and parent-professional collaboration. Focus of the education is on characteristics of autism and related conditions, and how it impacts communication, social development, behaviour management, and school services. Parents learn about their child's unique learning style and effective strategies that will enhance learning at home.

- **Parent Lecture Series on Autism and Structured Strategies**

Time limited information sessions for families provides an introduction to the learning styles of autism and other strategies.

*Appointment Type: Support/Education Group*

*Duration: 1 to 2 hours*

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- **Group Parent Teaching Sessions For "High Functional" Children with Autism**

These sessions are available to parents of school age children and adolescents with autism who attend regular education classes or mainstream settings. These sessions include both group lecture and discussion for parents and individual and/or group meetings with the children and adolescents. Focus of training is on characteristics of autism/HFA and how it impacts communication, social development, behaviour management, and school services. Families are selected for group sessions based upon interest in group support services and individual needs.

*Appointment Type: Direct Intervention: Group*

*Duration: 1 to 2 hours*

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- **Support and Discussion Groups for Parents**

Informal gatherings with other parents of individuals with autism and other SENDs to discuss concerns and support one another.

*Appointment Type: Support/Education Group*

*Duration: 1 to 2 hours*

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### Intervention Services

Staff at Sparklers Centres provide a range of intervention services for individuals with autism and other Special Educational Needs. Early intervention involves working with families and staff to increase a child's ability to function successfully and adaptively at home, in the community, and at school. Individual teaching and counselling sessions can focus on social skills, organisational and study skills, and emotional regulation. Parents may work together with clinicians to create effective programs for their child at home, at school and in the community

Interventions for Children – Sparklers Strategies for Toddlers

Interventions for Children – Sparklers Strategies for Toddlers

Sparklers Strategies for Toddlers (SSFT) is a comprehensive approach for toddlers with autism and their families, incorporating naturalistic, structured, and behavioural intervention strategies. Family Implemented Sparklers Strategies for Toddlers (SSFT) is our way of coaching parents to

(a) understand how their toddler learns and

(b) to use naturalistic and structured strategies to promote engagement. Interventionist conducts an initial Interview to determine treatment plan and broad goals for parents and child.

We provide this intervention through either:

- **Sparklers Strategies for Toddlers Weekly Sessions**

*Weekly Sparklers Strategies for Toddlers sessions are focused on parental goals.*

*Age: Under 4 years*

*Location: Primarily Clinic or Sparklers Centre of Excellence*

*Duration: 60 min/week x12 weeks*

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- **Sparklers Strategies for Toddlers Intensive Session**

Intensive sessions target individualised treatment goals for the child and parent/carer. Data is collected to measure progress. Group and/or individual sessions may be provided. Regular supervision required.

*Age: Under 3 years*

*Location: Clinic and Home*

*Duration: 3-6 hours/week for 3-6 months*

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## Interventions for School Aged Children

- **Individual Parent-Child Teaching Sessions**

These Sparklers sessions are available to parents of school aged children. They provide an opportunity for parents to learn ways of teaching their child at home and to help deal with behaviour challenges, self-help and other skills including communication and social skills. Sessions are time-limited and scheduled once a week, typically for 4-6 sessions.

Appointment Type: Direct Intervention: Individual

Duration: 1 hour

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- **Social Skills Groups for Individuals with Autism and related conditions**

Social Skills Groups (available in selected areas) are typically designed for children in regular educational settings who are verbally fluent. The focus of the groups is on helping individuals with autism and related conditions practice social skills in a group of peers. Contact Sparklers to find out what types of groups might be available and what ages of individuals are served.

Appointment Type: Direct Intervention: Group

Duration: 1 to 2 hours

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- **Intensive-Need Sessions**

Some clients with autism have intensive needs that require services above and beyond regular Sparklers sessions. Clients receiving these sessions typically have significant behavioural or emotional difficulties and have limited options for receiving services from other providers in their communities. Sparklers centres are available to provide more intensive and/or ongoing services to a limited number of clients. Typically, these sessions involve working with family members or community service providers to help them work directly with the individual with autism around a variety of issues. The ability to provide longer-term services is based on client need and staff availability.

*Appointment Type: Direct Intervention: Individual*

*Duration: 1 to 2 hours*

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### Interventions for Adults

- **Adult Psychoeducational Sessions**

These Sparklers sessions provide an opportunity for adults with autism and related conditions to discuss matters of personal importance such as relationships with others or work. The sessions program is short-term (4 to 6 sessions) and goal directed. It is not psychotherapy or a replacement for psychotherapy. This program is useful for independent adults who are motivated to discuss and work on goals for themselves.

*Appointment Type: Direct Intervention: Individual*

*Duration: 1 hour*

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- **Individual Parent-Adult (Child) Teaching Sessions**

These Sparklers sessions are available to parents of adults with autism and related conditions. They provide an opportunity for parents to learn ways of teaching their child at home and in the community to help deal with behaviour challenges, self-help and other skills including communication and social skills. Sessions are time-limited and scheduled once a week, typically for 4-6 sessions.

*Appointment Type: Direct Intervention: Individual*

*Duration: 1 to 2 hours*

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- **Support Groups for Adults with Autism**

Informal gatherings for adults with autism and related conditions who are able to discuss, and problem solve their own and others' concerns. One focus of this group is developing a support system among the group members.

Appointment Type: Support/Education Group

Duration: 1 to 2 hours

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- **Social Skills Groups for Individuals with Autism**

Social Skills Groups (available in selected areas) are typically designed for adults who are verbally fluent. The focus of the groups is on helping individuals with autism practice social skills in a group of peers. Contact your local Sparklers to find out what types of groups might be available.

Appointment Type: Direct Intervention: Group

Duration: 1 to 2 hours

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- **Supported Employment for Adults with Autism and related conditions**

This service helps individuals with autism and other Special Needs obtain and maintain employment in community settings. The components of Supported Employment are vocational assessment, job development, intensive training, and long-term support. Individuals are not required to receive all components of this service.

Appointment Type: Consultation and Direct Intervention

Duration: Varies based on needs of individual

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ongoing services to a limited number of clients. Typically, these sessions involve working with family members or community service providers to help them work directly with the individual with autism and related conditions around a variety of issues. The ability to provide longer-term services is based on client need and staff availability.

*Appointment Type: Direct Intervention: Individual*

*Duration: 1 to 2 hours*

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### Professional Consultation and Training

Sparklers staff are available for consultation to educational, vocational or residential programs that serve one or more individuals with autism, related conditions and their families. Sparklers conducts one to five-day long workshops and training throughout the year with a focus on learning styles of autism and other Special Needs and effective strategies for developing independence, social and communication skills.

- **Professional Consultation**

Sparklers provides consultation services to local school systems, group homes, and other agencies providing services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families. Agencies can request consultation for a program and/or an individual client.

*Appointment Type: Direct Appointment, On-site, Phone or Video interview*

*Duration: 1 to 4 hours*

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- **Contracted Training for Professionals**

On-site Sparklers Training developed according to your organisation's needs.

*Appointment Type: N/A*

*Duration: Varies*

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- **Workshops for Parents and Professionals**

Sparklers offers workshops on popular topics related to autism and other Special Needs are offered throughout the year.

*Appointment Type: N/A*

*Duration: Varies*

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**Confidentiality:** Our foundation is committed to maintaining the privacy of all its clients, staff and learners. It expects all staff to handle all individuals' personal information in a sensitive and professional manner. All staff are under an obligation not to gain access or attempt to gain access to information they are not authorised to have.

**Health and Safety:** Our foundation is committed to a healthy and safe working environment and expects all its employees to implement and promote its policy in all aspects of their work.