



Nomination

Mental health and addictions

Couchiching FHT

Social Aces and The School Success Program at the Couchiching FHT: An effective partnership to boost social competence in children struggling with mental health issues and learning disabilities.



The School Success Program with the Couchiching Family Health Team (CFHT) has partnered with The Integra Program at The Child Development Institute in Toronto to bring the Social Aces group to our community. This is the first time Social Aces has been offered outside of The Integra Program. Currently, there are no programs available in our region to effectively address the social needs of vulnerable children. Rather than fumble along with individual work in this area, the School Success Program Team reached out to Integra to open discussions around bringing their program to our clients.

Parents and youth are involved in the Social Aces group at various stages. Assessments are done with the child and parent(s) around readiness for the group and the benefits of this treatment. The group itself is tailored specifically to each child's needs. This allows the facilitators to maximize the learning and in-session activities for the most beneficial translation to real world situations. At week 3, the facilitators and parent(s) meet to discuss progress and future goals. Finally, the evaluation is a fluid process, involving parents and children, and occurs on a weekly basis. Activities are changed/developed to meet the needs of each child. This is done through feedback from parents as well as the youth. At the end of the group, a final report is generated for the family outlining progress towards goals.