

Social Work/Counselling Supports for Students

Helping Families Understand

All students in the Prairie Valley School Division have access to social work/counselor services that are age appropriate.

For Students in Kindergarten to Grade 5

It is appropriate to get social worker support when:

- ✓ Students are exhibiting violent behaviours towards themselves or others and are requiring the support of a behaviour or safety plan.
- ✓ There is a question or concern regarding child abuse or neglect.
- ✓ Students require crisis intervention for suicide, critical incident response and/or risk assessment.

For Students in Grade 6 to Grade 12

It is appropriate to get social worker support when:

- ✓ Students are exhibiting violent behaviours towards themselves or others and are requiring the support of a behaviour or safety plan.
- ✓ There is a question or concern regarding child abuse or neglect.
- ✓ Students require crisis intervention for suicide, critical incident response and/or risk assessment
- ✓ Short term one on one counselling (4-8 sessions)

Social Workers Will Also:

- Act as liaisons for families with outside agencies like mental health and social services, consulting with classroom teachers and school supports every step of the way.
- Help direct families to appropriate community supports when school resources are limited. This includes grief or divorce supports, family counselling or any other counselling or medical support that is required.

How does my child access support?

All students accessing social worker/counselling supports require a referral.

Can I request a referral for my child?

To request a referral parents must talk with their child's classroom teacher or administration. Parents will need to sign the referral, consenting for the school to talk about their child's needs to the Prairie Valley Learning Supports (PVLS) team. Your consent allows the team to discuss your child's needs further and make an intervention plan to meet those needs. This

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plan may or may not include direct support or counselling from the social worker. The plan could include services from other disciplines within the PVLS school team.

How much consultation will I get if my child is receiving social work or counseling support?

When it is decided that your child will have social work involvement, the school social worker will contact you. At this time, you will have a discussion about your concerns and what interventions and supports are needed. The school social worker will have contact with you throughout their working time with your child. As a parent, you will have direct access to the social worker once your child is on caseload.