

# Teamwork



Child and Youth Counsellors in the Sun West School Division assist students to become successful, happy, well-rounded individuals. Child and Youth Counsellors are part of a Student Services team that includes Educational Psychologists, an Addictions Educator, Speech and Language Pathologists, Special Education Consultants and an Occupational Therapist. The Student Services team provides Sun West students with a full-range of professional services to help them with any issues that may arise, which could impact their education.

The Student Services team co-operates with teachers, in-school administrators, staff and parents to encourage communication and inform students and parents about the services offered by Counsellors. All these groups work as a team towards building supports for students and ensuring:

***“Success for all.”***

# Sun West Child & Youth Counsellors



## Serving the Schools of the Sun West School Division

Back (l-r) Shannon Peardon (Outlook High, Dinsmore & Loreburn), Suellen Mills (Kenaston & Davidson), Nancy Powers (Eston, Elrose & Kyle), Lori Walsh (Kindersley Comp.), Jennifer Walter (Elizabeth, Westberry in Kindersley and D'Arcy Schools), Shelley Barton (Outlook Elementary & Lucky Lake)

Front (l-r) Shelley Hengen (Student Services Supervisor), Kristen Karppinen (Rosetown, Harris-Tessier & Beechy), Shelly Eckstein (Westcliffe & Eatonia), Liza Dahl (Addictions Educator) and Erin Swan (Landis & Plenty).

Missing: Jack Andrews (Biggar)

**For more information call  
1-866-375-2677  
or contact your school principal**

# What is the Role of a Child & Youth Counsellor?



***Working Together with  
Students, Parents &  
School Staff to achieve  
Success for all***



**SUN WEST  
SCHOOL DIVISION**  
*Success for all*

## The Role of a Child & Youth Counsellor

The responsibilities of the Child and Youth Counsellor include:

- Assisting school staff in working with pupils who may have issues, which are affecting their success at school
- Assisting students to strive towards personal, social, emotional and educational adjustment.
- Working as a team with teachers, principals, Educational Psychologists, Special Education and parents to provide support to students.
- Assisting families to find methods of dealing with the behaviors and attitudes of their children.
- Prioritizing a student's needs and sharing these with concerned personnel on the school-based team as well as with parents.
- Maintaining accurate records of student, teacher and parent visits.
- Assisting the school-based team in following protocol regarding tragic events, targeted interventions and other agency involvement.
- Performing all duties in a manner consistent with Sun West School Division policies and the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

## When Should a Student Visit a Counsellor?

Counsellors cover a whole spectrum of potential concerns and it is important to address issues no matter how big or small they may seem. Even if a child just needs a chance to talk or vent, Counsellors want to listen!

Issues do not have to be huge in order for a student to set an appointment with a Counsellor. Guidelines of student/counsellor confidentiality are always followed, regardless of the issue or discussion.



***Issues that may seem small to an adult can be more troublesome to a young person and can impact how well the student learns.***

## Reasons for Referrals

While people are often close in small communities, it is in these situations that sometimes a young person is more likely to hide their feelings and situations. It is important, therefore, that counsellors are available to young people. Having a Counsellor available provides students an opportunity to speak of people, situations and places in a confidential manner. It is a comforting and increases the likelihood they will speak openly about issues that affect their lives.

Counsellors are also available to talk to parents about concerns they have with their children. It is very important for parents to be involved in assisting and understanding their children. Parents are encouraged to talk with Counsellors either on the phone or meetings can be arranged at schools. Counsellors keep in contact with parents and update them on their child's progress in counselling, as appropriate.

### ***How to Contact a Counsellor***

If you have a concern with your child do not hesitate to call using the School Division toll-free number at 1-800-375-2677. If a Counsellor is not directly available, you can leave a message and it will be delivered in a timely manner. You can also contact the principal of your child's school.