

Ideas and Inspiration

Items that have been purchased under the Temporary Changes for Special Services at Home & Passport funding by people and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Computers, Communication and More

- Computer/Laptop
- Printer
- Tablet
- Chromebook
- iPad
- Mini iPad
- Cell phone plan
- Zoom membership for having support team meetings and interviews



Television, Movies and Streaming

- Disney Plus or Netflix monthly subscription
- Other streaming services
- DVDs and online movies
- Television
- Smart TV

Gaming items

- Video game systems (PS4, Xbox, Nintendo Switch)
- Xbox live membership
- Xbox with extra game controller (so son could play games with worker or his sister)
- Video game system for respite worker so they could play online with the child/youth
- Gaming console
- Controller for console
- Video games
- Unsolved Case Files game (for solving crimes)
- Virtual reality head sets
- Virtual games
- Computer games and supplies (joysticks, remotes, etc.)



Music related items

- Musical instruments
- On-line music lessons
- Music players
- Music CD's/files

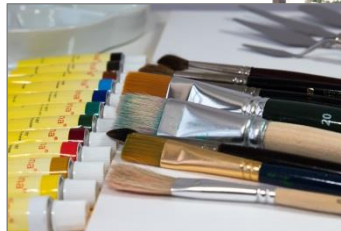


Indoor Fun (not electronic)

- Board games
- Puzzles
- Various 300+ piece puzzles
- Books
- Air hockey table
- Learning materials
 - (workbooks, fake money, learning clock)

Art and Hobby items

- Bird house kits
- Model kits - trains, airplanes and cars
- Supplies - like rug hooking or knitting
- Paints and paint brushes
- Art supplies
- Telescope
- Camera
- Construction paper and small crafting supplies



Exercise and Fitness related equipment

- Fitbits/Fitness trackers
- Exercise bike
- Treadmill

Bikes and More

- Riding toys (for children)
- Bicycles
- Adult 3 wheel bike





Outdoors: Summer

- Canoe/Kayak
- Swimming pool (small under \$1,000)
- Pool toys/things
- Basketball net
- Roller blades

Sensory items

Deep Pressure

- Weighted blanket
- Weighted lap pad
- Weighted animal
- Beanbag chair

Auditory

- Noise cancelling headphones
- White noise/sound machine

Movement and Proprioception

- Scooter
- Mini trampoline
- Outdoor trampoline
- Indoor swing (from ceiling)
- Outdoor swing/porch swing
- Back yard swing set



Tactile

- Muse headboard
- Sensory balls
- Fidget items

Visual

- Lights/Lamps (examples Bubble Tube, Jelly Fish, Sphere)



Personal Protection and Infection Control

Gloves

Face masks

Thermometers

Safety

- Audio monitor (to be able to hear on other side of door/walls because of increased anxiety and depression)
- Transportation to get places (person using a wheel chair needing to stay safe and away from crowds so couldn't use Transit Windsor, needed to use cabs and Handi Transit)

FUTURE IDEAS FOR THE MONTHS AHEAD



Discover a new passion. Here are some other hobby ideas to try out this fall and winter!

- Beading
- Crocheting
- Drumming
- Embroidery
- Knitting
- Photography
- Sewing
- Stamp collecting
- Scrap booking
- Weaving
- Making gifts for the neighbours and family getting creative with an art piece or baking
- Mosaics (Buy a mosaic kit OR purchase dishes at a thrift store – break them into small pieces, and glue the pieces into designs on a board, an old tray and/or on top of a piece of old furniture.)

Items people and families have identified they are considering asking about and/or putting forward under the ‘temporary changes’ in the future:

Outdoor Exercise

- Toboggan, Sled, Snow Tube, other winter sports items
- Snow Brick Maker, Snowball Maker, Igloo Kit (indoor or outdoor)
- Small snowshoes, traction items for boots, and/or poles for walking or hiking local trails
- Skates

Ideas for Inside

- Supplies for a ‘new’ hobby
- Smart Toys/Educational Apps for iPad
 - Example: Marbotic Interactive Wooden Smart Letters and Numbers for iPad
- Laminator
- Sensory items
 - Ball chair
 - Exercise ball
 - Wiggle disc (for sitting)
 - Small tent (for children to have a quiet place to have a break)



Ideas for the Colder Weather - Making it Fun to Layer Up!

Clothing items are NOT covered under the temporary changes for SSAH and Passport. For people (children, teens and adults with disabilities) and their families/workers who want to get more exercise and sunshine this year, but don't have the finances for winter attire -- we have an idea!

You might want to try a local thrift store (with proper physical distancing and PPE to stay safe) to find extra layers, vests, winter jackets, wind protection, and more. Anything that would enable you and your family to be able to stay outside for longer periods of time and try new things!

Lots of us haven't had the proper outdoor clothing to go for longer walks or hikes, or for trying other things outside. We may not have thought as much about the importance of doing this in the past. With this pandemic, getting outside for fresh air and sunshine, and getting exercise, is more important than ever – even in the winter. If we weren't doing those things in previous years, now may be the time to get creative, layer up and go for it! Make the eclectic look yours for this upcoming winter season! Have some fun!

Suggestions and Guidelines for Temporary Changes to Special Services at Home (SSAH) and Passport Funding

Effective April 1, 2020, important temporary changes were put in place for recipients of direct funding. These temporary changes to SSAH and Passport will remain in place until further notice by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. All other aspects of the program guidelines remain in effect. See links for information about the temporary changes below.

Important Considerations

- *Where for some items there is not clear direction from the official Ministry guidelines, it is recommended that families check with their SSAH/Passport Coordinator before purchasing any items that may be considered "more unique." Funding for certain items have been looked at on an individual basis for approval. Even though a particular item, (i.e. Porch Swing, Muse Headboard) may have been approved for someone else it may NOT be approved for another.*
- *Here are some examples of items that have NOT qualified for funding when people asked: furniture, hot tubs, desks, clothing, cooking supplies (mixers, other small equipment).*

To Review Guidelines from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services:

Special Services at Home

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/specialservices.aspx>

Help with daily living: Passport

<https://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/developmental/servicesupport/passport.aspx>

Families could also refer to this DSO document for eligible purchases with Passport Funding:

https://www.dsontario.ca/assets/documents/Downloadable-Inserts/passport-important-info/en/Passport_Updates_June_2_2020.pdf

Answers from the Minister's Office

In the spring of 2020, Family Alliance Ontario (FAO) posed some questions to the Minister's Office (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services), then they circulated the answers. We have re-printed three of those questions and answers here.

Q. Data Plans: Is this an expense that would be covered? Would it be month by month or from April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021?

A. Yes, internet and cell phone data plans are temporarily eligible only for monthly costs for the duration of the temporary measures being in effect. Once the government-mandated restrictions are lifted and the program transitions back to standard program requirements, these purchases will not be reimbursed. You will be given as much notice as possible to prepare you for the return to business as usual.

Note: Cancellation fees and/or renewals fees will not be reimbursed.

Q. Can you purchase Netflix or Amazon Prime?

A. Yes, these and other similar services can be temporarily purchased to provide program recipients the opportunity to remain entertained and engaged at home, while following physical distancing.

Q. More specifics on procedure and items such as sensory:

A. The purchase of sensory items are a temporarily eligible expense to support recipients who rely on sensory items to alleviate anxiety/stress and/or support any clinical or behavioural plans. This could include multi-sensory related products and technologies.

Thinking about Sensory Items?

Below is a list of places a parent found at this website:

<https://grandviewkids.ca/ssah-eligible-expenses/>

Where you can Buy Sensory Equipment?

Flaghouse www.flaghouse.ca

School Specialty www.schoolspecialty.com

FDMT www.fdm.ca

Special Needs Toys www.specialneedstoys.com

Scholar's Choice www.scholarschoice.ca

Toys, Tools and Treasures www.toystoolsandtreasures.com

Weighted For You www.weightedforyou.com

Amazon www.amazon.ca

Canadian Tire www.canadiantire.ca

Ikea www.ikea.com/ca/en/



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