

Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Programs for children with diverse needs and disabilities are organized around the Individual Education Plan (IEP). An IEP is specifically designed to meet the individual educational needs of a child. The first IEP Meeting will be held in late September or early October. This is an opportunity for you to have input into your child's educational plan.

An IEP describes:

- Student strengths and stretches
- Supports being accessed within the school district
- Competency-based goals, and objectives and strategies to reach those goals
- Adaptations to the environment, instruction, assessment, and curriculum that may be provided
- Person(s) responsible for different objectives
- Evidence of progress throughout the year

Parents are offered the opportunity and encouraged to collaborate with the school in the IEP process.

Agency Support

Social workers from Children & Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) link families with community-based services and supports.

The Nursing Support Services (NSS) and Child Development Centre (CDC) programs work with Learning Support Services in the school district to provide special health care support for children as needed.

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LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES

Welcomes you to the
Abbotsford School
District

A Guide for Parents of Kindergarten Students with Diverse Needs or Disabilities



Philosophy

The BC Ministry of Education promotes “An inclusive education system in which students with diverse needs are fully participating members of a community of learners.” (Inclusive Education Manual)

The Ministry of Education provides supplemental special education funding to school boards and independent schools to assist them in providing programs for students with diverse learning needs.

Abbotsford School District’s guiding principles:

- all students are unique
- all students are to be valued
- all students can learn

School staff for your child’s planning team may include principals, classroom teachers, learning support services teachers and educational assistants.

Depending on the needs of your child, there could be several staff that plan together and support him/her. This group is called the School-based Team. Ideally, one teacher, called a Case Manager, will be chosen to coordinate this work and will be the best person for you to talk to about your child’s needs.

Action Plan for Parents

- **Register your child for school as soon as the regular kindergarten registration time begins. Please do not wait as the K classes may fill up in your neighborhood school.**
- Inform the school staff that your child has diverse needs or a disability.
- Attend the transition meeting involving the staff from the CDC, the preschool and the School District to initiate planning for your child.
- Please bring as much as possible of the following documentation to the transition meeting/school:
 - o All medical reports from Pediatrician, Sunny Hill Health Centre, Children’s Hospital, Asante Centre, BC Autism Assessment Network, etc.
 - o All reports from Child Development Centre (Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Supported Child Care).
 - o Any reports from the Public Health Unit (Speech and Language Therapy reports, Health Care Plan).
 - o All reports from Supported Child Care or Preschools.
 - o Any reports from private agencies (e.g. Psychologists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational and Physical Therapists, Behavioral Consultant, etc.)

School District Services

LSS Helping Teachers

An LSS Helping Teacher is assigned to every school in Abbotsford. They often assist with school transitions, and consult regarding Ministry designations, district programs and supports, and provincial programs. LSS Helping Teachers are available to assist school staff in the development and review of individualized education programs for children with diverse needs or disabilities

Speech Language Pathologist

The services of a Speech and Language Pathologist (Therapist) may be provided to assess the language needs of your child, and to assist the school-based staff in setting up a language development program.

School Psychologist

A School Psychologist may provide some direct assessment of cognitive functioning, behavior, social skills, and academic achievement. They may be helpful in assisting school personnel in writing appropriate goals and objectives for the IEP, and in developing appropriate intervention programs.