Support in our Schools for your Child with Autism

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that may impact the way a child plays, learns, speaks, and acts. Every child with a diagnosis of ASD is unique, and programming needs to be specific to their individual learning needs. There are a broad range of characteristics your child with Autism may have, including:

- difficulty socializing
- having focused and repetitive interests, activities, or behaviours
- challenges with language development
- difficulties with transitions
- sensitivity to their environment
- challenges with cognitive development

Where to Start
If your child has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, please bring this information to the attention of the school principal. A written statement or letter from a medical doctor, psychiatrist, or a psychologist with a clear diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder is requested.

Parents are important partners in all aspects of education. Communication and consistent strategies are crucial when working with students with ASD. Parents can support this by coordinating services and sharing information with and from community partners, especially those delivering specialized programs such as Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI). Your school will assist in setting up collaborative meetings.

Students with ASD are unique and individual. There are a variety of resources available to support their needs within Trillium Lakelands District School Board.

Next Steps
Individual Education Plan (IEP)
A student may require "Accommodations" and/or "Modifications" to the curriculum. A programming page with student specific learning strategies will be developed as a part of the IEP which may focus on social, communication or sensory needs. A safety plan may also be an important component as a proactive way to support a student's needs.

Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC)
A student may be formally identified through an IPRC process. Please see the Special Education Program page at tldsb.ca for more information. Students do not need to be identified to access special education.

Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT)/Department Head of Special Education
The elementary school Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) or secondary school Department Head of Special Education serve the needs of students who require assistance beyond that provided by the regular classroom teacher. This assistance can be direct to the student or by providing programming support such as social skills training, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) strategies, outside resources for Occupational Therapy and positive behaviour supports to the classroom.

TLDSB Specialized Services Staff
A variety of staff are available to help the student and the classroom teacher in implementing a student with ASD's programming. This may include but is not limited to a special education consultant, a psychoeducational consultant, a speech-language pathologist, or itinerant support.

More Information
For more details, please visit **tldsb.ca/programs/special-education** or contact your child's school.

Community Partners and Resources

Ontario Autism Program
Central Intake & Registration Team
1 888 444 4530
oap@ontario.ca
www.ontario.ca/autism

Health Services for Ontario
thehealthline.ca

City of Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton

Kerry s Place, East Region
Oshawa, ON
1 888 292 5512
kerrysplace.org

Five Counties Children's Centre
Lindsay/Minden
1 888 706 4734
Fivecounties.on.ca

Muskoka

Hands The Family Network
Bracebridge
1.800.668.8555
thefamilyhelpnetwork.ca

Community Living South Muskoka
Bracebridge
705.645.5494
Clsm.on.ca

One Kids Place Children's Treatment Centre
Huntsville
705.789.9985
onekidsplace.ca

Community Living Huntsville
Huntsville
705.789.4543
clhuntsville.ca

Information provided to you by TLDSB's Special Education Advisory Committee in collaboration with the TLDSB Specialized Services Department. If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact Communication Services at info@tldsb.on.ca

Trillium Lakelands
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD