

Support in our Schools for your Child with a Developmental Disability

People with developmental disabilities often require more help to learn, understand, or use information. A developmental disability can affect their language and social skills. It may also mean that they need help with skills for daily life as well as other assistance to be as independent and successful as possible. A developmental disability:

- Is present at birth or develops before 18 years of age,
- Affects a person's ability to learn,
- Is permanent,
- Can be mild or severe.

Where to Start

A formal assessment under the supervision of a medical doctor, a psychologist or psychological associate identifying the disability. The assessment must be reviewed by TLDSB psychological educational assessment staff and determined to meet TLDSB criteria.

You can help your child by:

- Advocating at school by participating in meetings, opportunities for discussions, and parent-teacher events
- Two way communication with home and school to ensure that everyone is reinforcing the same learning goals
- Understanding and contributing to your child's IEP
- Notifying the school of any changes in your child's medical or physical status and needs so teachers may adjust or modify your child's programming

Students with developmental disabilities are all unique learners and a variety of resources are 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. Accommodations may include special teaching, supports and assessment strategies. Accommodations keep the student working at their grade level. Modifications are significant changes to the number of curriculum expectations and/or a change to the grade level at which the student is working.

Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC)

A student may be formally identified through an IPRC process. Please see the Special Education Program page at tldsbc.ca for more information. Students do not need to be identified to access special education support.

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 serves the needs of students who require assistance beyond that provided by the regular classroom teacher. This assistance can be direct to the student or providing programming support 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 developmental disabilities' programming. This may include but is not limited to a special education consultant, a psychoeducational consultant, a speech-language pathologist, or itinerant support.

Practical Academic/Life Skills Program

An individualized program at both elementary and secondary levels for students with significant cognitive and adaptive needs. The focus is on functional literacy and numeracy, social skills and life skills. The goal is to prepare students for life in the community after high school.

More Information

For more information go to www.tldsbc.ca/programs/special-education or contact your child's school. A formal definition and further information from the Ministry of Education can be found at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/guide/specedpartae.pdf.

Information provided to you by TLDSB's Special Education Advisory Committee in collaboration with the TLDSB Specialized Services Department.

Community Partners and Resources

Developmental Services
Ontario
www.dsontario.ca

Community Living
Ontario
communitylivingontario.ca

Community Living
South Muskoka
www.clsm.on.ca
15 Depot Drive
Bracebridge, ON | P1L 0A1
705.645.5494

Community Living
Huntsville
www.clhuntsville.ca
99 West Road
Huntsville, ON | P1H 1M1
705.789.4543

Community Living
Central Highlands
www.communitylivingkl.ca

205 McLaughlin Rd, Ste 200
Lindsay, ON | K9V 0K7
705.328.0464

Haliburton County
Administrative Office
73 Victoria Street
Haliburton, ON | K0M 1S0
705.457.2626

Hands
thefamilyhelpnetwork.ca
23 Ball's Drive
Bracebridge, ON | P1L 1T1
705.645.3155
1.800.668.8555