

RESOURCES

Autism Society Ontario

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RENFREW COUNTY
DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD

Special Education Department

INFORMATION GUIDE

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)/ PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER (PDD)

Renfrew County District School Board
Special Education Department
Mary Street Education Centre
480 Mary Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5W9

T: 613-735-0151 or 1-800-267-1098 x 3300

Web: www.renfrew.edu.on.ca/speced/RCDSB_SpEd_Home.htm

Email: speced@renfrew.edu.on.ca

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*When used in this document, the word
“parent” includes guardian.*

The Renfrew County District School Board provides Special Education programs and services in accordance with the Education Act and Regulations.

DEFINITION

The Ministry of Education defines the exceptionality as:

Autism

A severe learning disorder that is characterized by:

- a) *disturbances in:*
 - *rate of educational development;*
 - *ability to relate to the environment;*
 - *mobility;*
 - *perception, speech, and language.*
- b) *lack of the representational symbolic behaviour that precedes language.*

HOW A STUDENT IS PLACED

Children who have been diagnosed by a Psychologist as having Autism or Pervasive Developmental Disorder should be brought to the attention of the school principal by the parent/guardian at the time of registration. At that time the principal of the school will contact the Special Education Department and request that a case conference be arranged. The case conference will involve the

parents, the school principal and a representative from the Special Education Department, and may involve other community agency staff who are involved with the family. This is an opportunity for parents to present information about their child to the school and special education department of the board. This meeting also gives the board an opportunity to explain its present programs or services for children with special needs.

For children with Autism or Pervasive Developmental Disorder various special education staff may become involved. The special education resource teacher, the school support counsellor, the special education consultant or the speech language pathologist could be requested to assist with program plans for your child.

Following the case conference the school principal will arrange a County Identification, Placement and Review Committee meeting. This will be the formal meeting to consider identification, the student's strengths and needs and any recommendations for placement. You will be invited to attend this meeting and provide any further input about your child. This meeting will also identify the program and/or services the special education department of the board feels is necessary to meet your child's needs.

For more information regarding the identification, placement and review process and the rights of parents, please ask your school principal for a copy of the parent guide "Parents As Partners."

Program delivery options include regular class placement, regular class placement with support, special class placement or special class placement with support. The major focus of the pupil's special education program will be on communication skills and social interactions.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP

Meet with your child's principal to discuss your child's needs.

Be encouraging by concentrating on your child's strengths.