

## **Programs and Services for Students with Autism**

The Rainbow District School Board provides a variety of services for students who have Autism or other Pervasive Developmental Disabilities.

Students who demonstrate needs in the area of communication skills, language development, social skills and the ability to relate to their environment require interventions to organize and focus their learning.

A team approach (including parents, central staff, school staff and community services/agencies) in the completion of individualized program plans offers the most effective support to these students.

Liaison with central staff and partnerships with outside resources are crucial to meeting the student needs.

### **ADMISSION**

Students may access these services when they have a diagnosis of Autism or

other Pervasive Developmental Disability.

### **RANGE OF SERVICES**

There is a great deal of variance within this group of students including a wide range of characteristics and cognitive/intellectual abilities. Students with this disability have an uneven pattern of educational development that is characterized by significant difficulties in social development, communication skills and repetitive behaviours or interests, especially an insistence on sameness and routine.

Depending on the level of need, each student may:

- receive the specialized support of a qualified Special Education Teacher
- receive the specialized support of an Educational Assistant
- require specialized programming modifications

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Students with autism may benefit from a program which includes:

\*modifications to Ontario curriculum expectations and/or

\*special teaching strategies and accommodations

### **Range of Placements**

The Rainbow District School Board offers a wide range of placements to meet the needs of our students with Autism.

Regular Class With Resource Support  
Some students may benefit from inclusion in the regular class, and would receive the following support:

- Special Education Teacher will work with the Classroom Teacher to develop an IEP
- Special Education Consultant will coordinate services with outside agencies such as Child Care Resources, Children's Services Cooperative, Developmental Clinical Services
- Educational Assistant may provide assistance to focus, follow routines, maintain attention and make transitions

**Regular Class With Resource Withdrawal**  
Some students may be withdrawn from the regular class to work with the Resource Teacher

#### **Self-Contained Class:**

When students have associated socialization and behavioural difficulties to a marked degree and where constant supervision is required, they may benefit from placement in a self-contained class for students with Autism.

Within the Rainbow District School Board, self-contained classes for students with Autism are located at Wembley P.S. and Churchill P.S.

- Programming includes social skills, language skills, behaviour training and fine motor skills
- Staff collaborate with various agencies and professionals, including occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, and psychologists
- Staff also collaborate with outside agencies such as the Geneva Centre for Autism

#### **Self-Contained School:**

A student whose Autism is compounded

by a significant developmental delay and who has profound difficulty relating to others and adapting to the environment may benefit from placement in the Autism program at Gatchell School.

For more information, contact your local school who will direct your call to the Special Education Consultant for your area .

#### **COLLABORATION WITH AGENCIES**

The Rainbow District School Board collaborates with the following agencies or schools to provide services:

- \* Child Care Resources
- \* Children's Services Cooperative
- \* Geneva Centre for Autism
- \* Developmental Clinical Services

