

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."

HOW THE PARENT CAN HELP

In order to enhance and enrich the student's learning and progress it is important that two-way communication exists. Regular parent/teacher interviews, written updates, telephone conferences are important ways of ensuring that all concerned with the welfare of your child are reinforcing the same learning goals.

It is important for the parent to inform the school principal of changes in the student's medical or physical status and needs in order for teachers to adjust or modify the student's program appropriately.

RESOURCES

Renfrew County Developmental Services
c/o Family & Children's Services
464 Isabella Street,
Pembroke, ON K8A 5T9
Contact: Manager, Developmental Services
Telephone: (613) 735-6866 or
1-800-267-5878
Fax: (613) 735-3067

Community Living – Upper Ottawa Valley
894 Pembroke Street West, Box 1030,
Pembroke, ON K8A 5P8
www.communitylivingupperottawavalley.ca
Telephone: (613) 735-0659
Fax: (613) 735-1373

**Madawaska Valley Association for
Community Living**
19491 Opeongo Line E, Box 1178, Barry's
Bay, ON K0J 1B0
Telephone: (613) 756-3817
Fax: (613) 756-0616

**Community Living Renfrew County
South**
In Arnprior: 68 Daniel Street North,
Arnprior, ON K7S 2K5
Telephone: (613) 623-4955
Fax: (613) 623-6176

In Renfrew: 326 Raglan Street South,
Renfrew, ON K7V 1R5
Telephone: (613) 432-6763
Fax: (613) 432-9465

**Champlain Community Care Access
Centre**
1100 Pembroke Street East,
Pembroke, ON K8A 6Y7
Telephone: (613) 732-7007 or
1-888-421-2222
Fax: (613) 732-2051

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 x3300

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

March 2008



RENFREW COUNTY
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Department

INFORMATION BROCHURE

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

*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

A student identified as having a developmental disability would be one who demonstrates a significant and generalized delay in development and communication skills, thinking skills, independent living skills and adaptive skills.

The Ministry of Education defines the exceptionality as:

Developmental Disability

A severe learning disorder characterized by:

- a) *an inability to profit from a special education program for students with Mild Intellectual Disabilities because of slow intellectual development;*
- b) *an inability to profit from a special education program that is designed to accommodate slow intellectual development;*
- c) *a limited potential for academic learning, independent social adjustment, and economic self-support.*

PROGRAMS

Programs for students with Developmental Disabilities are available in specific elementary and secondary schools in Renfrew, Pembroke and Barry's Bay. Students usually progress through these schools in age appropriate stages. The programs are open to students from ages four to twenty-one.

Given the wide range in abilities common to students with developmental disabilities, the focus of instruction is highly individualized. Instruction is organized around the following areas:

- * Communication skills
- * Functional Academic Skills
- * Social skills
- * Independent living skills
- * Physical skills

Students are integrated into regular classrooms where, in the opinion of the school and parent/guardian, this environment is considered an appropriate placement for the student. In addition, students are included in regular activities of the school program such as assemblies, recesses, and lunch room.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Some students diagnosed as having developmental disabilities also have physical or sensory handicaps. The

teachers rely upon professionals, (Easter Seal Society, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Physio/Occupational Therapists and specialists from Provincial Schools) to assist in the development of the program for these students. The Board may provide Education Assistants to assist the teacher in providing a safe and supportive environment.

The Board has endeavoured to modify its schools to accommodate students with physical disabilities.

Where personalized equipment is required the Board will attempt to obtain such equipment through the support of the Ministry of Education. As well, parents/guardians are encouraged to apply to the Assistive Devices Program.

Frequent or daily communication between the teacher and parent/guardian is encouraged.

HOW A STUDENT IS PLACED IN THE PROGRAM

If your child has special needs contact the principal of your local school and request information regarding the Identification, Placement and Review Committee. This committee is responsible for identifying the needs of special students and recommending program placement.