

# **Support Services for Students with Special Educational Needs in Ordinary Schools Parent Guide**

Education Bureau 2015

## **Introduction**

Parents always wish to provide their children with the best living and learning environment in order to nurture them to achieve success in future. With early identification and support, children with special educational needs (SEN) may adapt to everyday life and the learning environment, and develop their potentials.

## **Students with SEN**

If you find that your child has difficulties in learning, communication or behaviour, he/she may have different degrees of SEN.

The major types of SEN are as follows:

- Specific Learning Difficulties
- Intellectual Disability
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Physical Disability
- Visual Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- Speech and Language Impairment

## **Roles of Parents**

### **I Suspect that My Child may have SEN...**

- Initiate contact with his/her teachers, the student guidance personnel or the social worker of the school. Schools can then give appropriate assessment and guidance services.

### **My Child is Assessed to have SEN...**

- Provide the school with the SEN information of your child promptly and proactively; and
- Maintain communication with the school's student support team, class teacher and subject teachers to understand your child's learning in school; and discuss appropriate support strategies with them when necessary.

For further information on supporting children with SEN, parents may refer to the "Parent Guide on the Whole School Approach to Integrated Education" on the Education Bureau (EDB) website (please see the back page for the website).

## **Support Measures**

### **Pre-school Age**

#### **Integrated Child Health and Development Programme of the Department of Health**

The programme targets at babies and young children from birth to 5 years of age. A comprehensive range of health promotion and disease prevention services are provided in Maternal and Child Health Centres under the programme. Immunization as well as health and developmental surveillance including physical examination, growth & developmental surveillance, and hearing & vision screening tests are offered.

#### **Child Assessment Service of the Department of Health**

It provides comprehensive diagnostic evaluation, assessment, short-term follow up and referral services for children from birth to 12 years of age with developmental problems. Arrangements and co-ordination of appropriate rehabilitation services are provided according to the individual needs of the children and their family conditions.

#### **Rehabilitation Services of the Social Welfare Department (SWD)**

Children from birth to 6 years of age who are diagnosed as having special needs will be referred by social workers to the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services of SWD to apply and waitlist for pre-school rehabilitation services, which include:

- Early Education and Training Centres (0-6 years);
- Special Child Care Centres (2-6 years); and
- Integrated Programmes in Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres (2-6 years).

### **School Age**

The Government adopts a dual-track mode in implementing special education. EDB will, subject to the assessment and recommendations of the specialists and with parents' consent, refer students with more severe or multiple disabilities to special schools for intensive support. Other students with SEN may attend ordinary schools.

#### **Primary One Admission**

If a child's SEN is identified at pre-school age, parents should make reference to the recommendations of the professionals and the child's learning mode for choosing a suitable school for their child.

##### **➤ Study in Ordinary Schools**

Parents can apply for primary one admission for their child either at the Discretionary Places Admission Stage or Central Allocation Stage under the existing Primary Admission System. Parents should indicate their children's SEN type in the "Application

Form for Admission to Primary One” for follow up by EDB; and

### ➤ **Study in Special Schools**

Relevant information of the child should be submitted through social workers or relevant referrers to the Special Education Support 2 Section of EDB for processing.

### **School-based Support**

- EDB has been providing schools with additional resources, professional support and teacher training and promoting integrated education in accordance with the five basic principles of Early Identification, Early Intervention, Whole School Approach, Home-school Cooperation and Cross-sector Collaboration.
- In general, schools adopt the “3-Tier Intervention Model” to cater for the learning needs of students. Tier-1 support refers to helping students with mild or transient learning difficulties through quality teaching in regular classrooms; Tier-2 support refers to “add on” intervention, such as pull-out or after school programmes, hired professional services, etc., for students with persistent learning difficulties; Tier-3 support refers to intensive individualised support for students with severe learning difficulties, including Individual Education Plans.
- For further information on the support services for students with different types of SEN, please refer to the relevant leaflets published by EDB.

### **Useful Websites and Telephone Numbers for Enquiry**

#### **Education Bureau**

<http://www.edb.gov.hk>

Hong Kong Regional Education Office (Tel: 2863 4646)

Kowloon Regional Education Office (Tel: 3698 4108)

New Territories East Regional Education Office (Tel: 2639 4876)

New Territories West Regional Education Office (Tel: 2437 7272)

General Enquiries on Special Education (Tel: 3698 3957)

#### **Educational Psychology Service Section**

- Hong Kong (Tel: 3695 0486)
- Kowloon (Tel: 3698 4321)
- New Territories East (Tel: 3547 2228)
- New Territories West (Tel: 2437 7270)

## **Speech and Hearing Service Section**

- Speech Therapy Services (Tel: 3698 3790)
- Audiological Services (Tel: 3698 3909)

## **Special Education Resource Centre (Tel: 3698 3900)**

<http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/special/resources/serc/index.html>

## **Parent Guide on the Whole School Approach to Integrated Education**

<http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/edu-system/special/resources/serc/download/ieparentguide.pdf>

## **Operation Guide on the Whole School Approach to Integrated Education**

[http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/edu-system/special/support/wsa/ie%20guide\\_en.pdf](http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/edu-system/special/support/wsa/ie%20guide_en.pdf)

## **Department of Health**

- Child Assessment Service (Tel: 2246 6659)  
<http://www.dhcas.gov.hk/eindex.html>
- Student Health Service (Tel: 2349 4212)  
<http://www.studenthealth.gov.hk/eindex.html>

## **Social Welfare Department**

<http://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index>

## **The Hong Kong Council of Social Service**

<http://hkcss.org.hk/e>

## **OneClick**

<http://oneclick.hku.hk/en>