Early Identification of Children's Learning Needs

JK to Grade 1
Guide for Parents



SPEECH-LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

What is the Early Identification Strategy?

The Early Identification Strategy is a process through which educators, parents and community partners identify the needs and abilities of early learners from pre- K to Grade 1.

The strategy consolidates practices used in TCDSB schools and builds on key content from *Learning for All, K to 12 (2013)* and *the Kindergarten Program (2016)*.

Early Identification … is the first conversation you have around your child's success and your child's progress in the early years.

The strategy provides families and educators with helpful tools and resources to support early learners.

Components of Strategy

- **School Registration and Community Information:**
  Making your child's transition to school a positive experience is the key. Parents are asked to bring to school relevant documentation and reports. The school may provide you with community information so that you are aware of services available to support your child.

- **Assessment and Monitoring:**
  An important component of the strategy is assessment for learning through various developmental inventories and screenings.

- **Instruction and Intervention:**
  Various TCDSB services and programs may be offered to support your child.

How does the Early Identification Strategy work?

Step 1 - Engage:

Start the conversation. Conversation is at the core of the Early Identification Strategy. Therefore if you have concerns about your child early in the school year, then talk to your child's educators.



Step 2 - Implement:

You are invited to consider completing the Looksee Checklist, a checklist that supports you in addressing your child's needs. Together, parents and educators can develop strategies for home and school.
https://lookseechecklist.com/en/



Step 3 - Monitor:

Strategies are monitored by you and your child's educators. Continue the conversation.



Step 4 - Recommend:

If additional strategies are required for your child, his/her educators will discuss with you next steps, which may include a meeting with the school team.

Community Links and Resources

TCDSB Early ON Child and Family Centres
School-based programs dedicated to supporting families by offering free in-person, high-quality, drop-in programs at 19 locations across the City of Toronto.
https://www.tcdsb.org/o/earlyyears/page/earlyon-program-overview
416-222-8282, ext. 72478

Preschool Speech and Language Services
Community speech and language services for preschoolers.
www.surreyplace.ca or call 416-925-5141

Toronto Public Library
Various literacy programs are available at local branches.
416-397-5981

City of Toronto Parks & Recreation
Recreation programs, camps, fitness activities and community programs for families. Parents can register online.
https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-recreation/
416-396-7378

For further information, please call:

Chief of Speech-Language Pathologists
(416) 222-8282 extension 72022

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