

TRANSITION TO SCHOOL



**A guide for parents
in Infant and Child
Development Services**

Early Intervention Services

August 2023


York Region



Contents

Planning for the transition from home to school	4
Tips for transitioning to school	8
Transition to school timetable	12
Elementary school programs	16
York Region Inclusion Support Services	22
Online resources	26
Notes	30



This guide contains information for parents to support their child's transition to school.



PLANNING FOR THE TRANSITION FROM HOME TO SCHOOL



100 to 200 children whose families receive support from York Region Early Intervention Services - Infant and Child Development Services enter school every year.





The following information highlights how Infant and Child Development Services (ICDS) supports you and your child to make a smooth transition to school. This process usually starts a year before your child begins school.

1. ROUTINES-BASED INTERVENTION

Your child learns all day long by doing everyday things. You can help your child during those times.

Parents meet regularly with their Early Interventionist to:

- Develop a Family Service Plan that includes transition to school goals/outcomes
- Learn how daily routines and activities help to prepare your child for school
- Learn about additional services and programs in the community and referral processes
- Learn how to advocate with the school boards for support for your child
- Understand what to expect at school transition meetings

Visits are about an hour long and are scheduled Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in-person at your home (or virtually through video conferencing), at an Early Intervention Services office or in the community, such as an EarlyON Child and Family Centre, park, or library.

2. PARENT EDUCATION

ICDS staff will work with you and guide you to resources and information in your community related to transitioning your child to school. There may also be opportunities for parents to come together and share experiences and resources. Your Early Interventionist will bring these to your attention as available.

Topics may include:

- Transition to school process
- Funding resources
- Summer camps and recreation programs
- Life after early intervention

In addition, York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) host information evenings about their special education services and programs.

3. PARENT - CHILD PLAY GROUPS

These groups are a great opportunity for preschoolers to socialize with and learn from peers and practice the skills needed for school success through free play and structured routines and activities. At the same time, parents can learn from each other, as well as from early intervention and early learning professionals about how to encourage your child's potential.

*Check with your Early Interventionist about dates, locations and registration details for play groups and parent groups offered by ICDS or in your community.





TIPS FOR TRANSITIONING TO SCHOOL



The shift to formal education at school is a normal and expected part of every child's life.

Discuss with your Early Interventionist which tips on the following list are most appropriate for your child and can be included in your Family Service Plan.

SOCIAL INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION

- Help your child learn to be comfortable interacting with children their age and other adults
- Plan trips in your neighborhood to parks, libraries and other places children go such as an EarlyON Child and Family Centres.
- Register your child in a summer camp, recreation or preschool program
- Encourage your child to communicate their need for help
- Help your child learn to regulate their emotions and teach them how to cope

SCHOOL ROUTINES AND ACTIVITIES

- Have some consistent rules and routines at home, such as meal and bedtime routines
- Be consistent and help your child follow two to three step directions
- Help your child be comfortable and familiar with classroom materials, such as a child-sized chair and table, scissors, crayons, playdough and puzzles
- Help your child to start and finish tasks, tidy up and put away things where they belong
- Visit the school playground and play areas
- Practice going to the school (walking or taking a town bus) with your child carrying their own backpack
- Read books and sing songs about going to school and taking the bus (such as *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn)

TRANSITIONS

- Although a consistent daily routine is best, teach your child to be flexible and to try new things
- Help your child learn to move from one activity to the next by giving them a warning that the activity is going to end and that a new activity will begin
- Use a timer to help with transitioning from one routine to the next
- Make sure your child's wake up and meal times at home match the school day

SELF-HELP INDEPENDENCE

- Have a specific place for toys and outdoor clothes and help your child put things away.
- Hang a hook at the child's level so they can hang up their coat
- Let your child play independently at home with various activities and materials they are comfortable with and enjoy. Start with short periods of time and gradually increase the time
- Practice toileting sequence (pulling pants up and down, wiping and handwashing)
- Tell the teacher about any equipment your child may need
- Encourage your child to sit at the table for snacks and meals:
 - Practice opening containers, lunch bag, backpack and water bottle
 - Practice packing and unpacking their backpack
 - Practice putting coat, shoes and boots on and taking them off

Here are some examples of goals/outcomes from a Family Service Plan:

1. Child will pack, unpack and carry a backpack for summer outings to the park
2. Child will participate in lunch and snack time by eating two bites of a granola bar, two slices of an apple
3. Parent(s) will attend a parent workshop to learn about how to help their child calm down and avoid hitting when frustrated
4. Parent(s) will read books with their child at bedtime and naptime to increase their interest and attention for this activity
5. Parent(s) will encourage their child's social skills by attending EarlyON programs during the summer

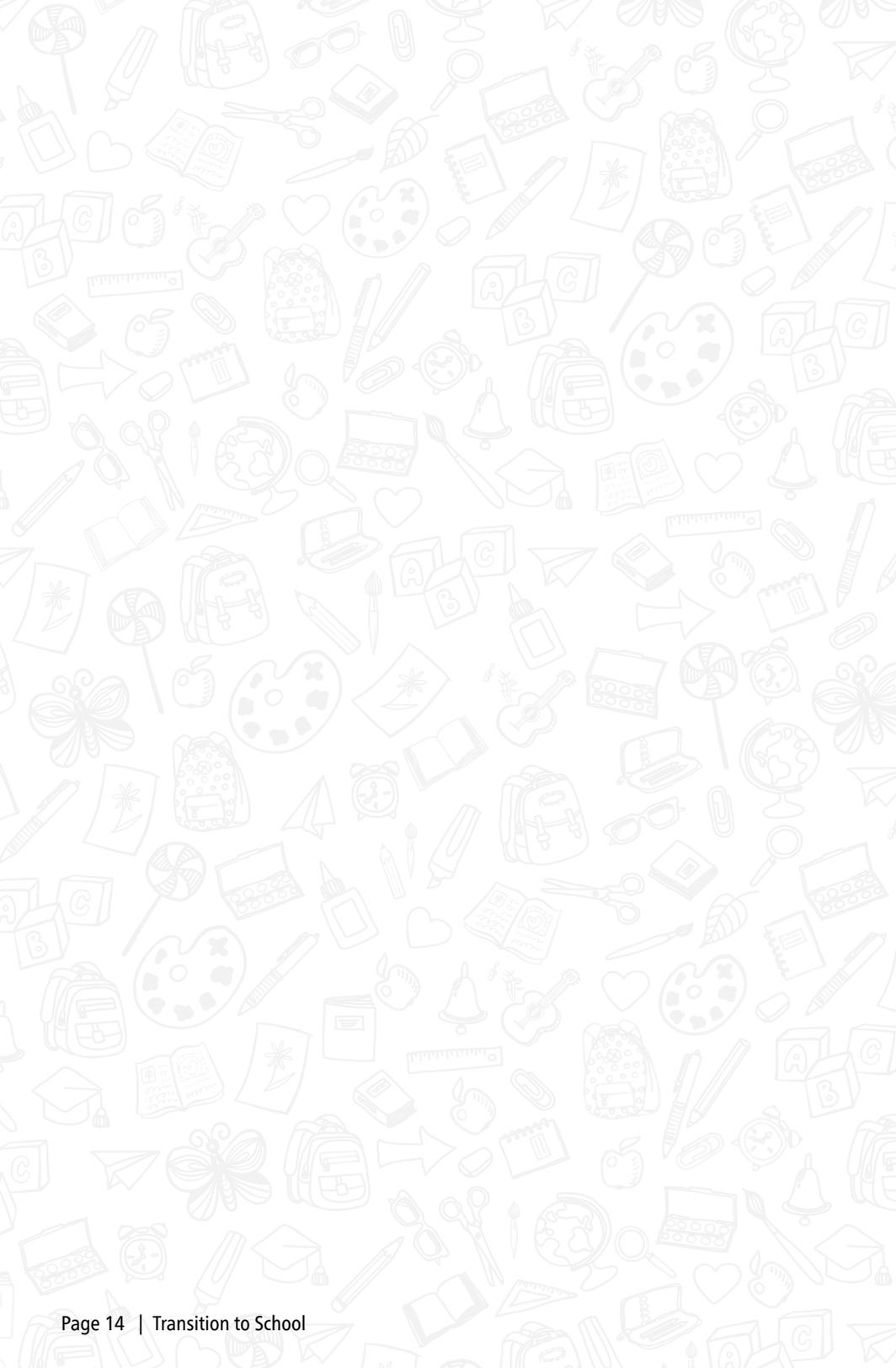




TRANSITION TO SCHOOL TIMETABLE



For the York Catholic District School Board and
York Region District School Board.



Transition planning is important to have successful goals and outcomes for children in school. This process starts the year before your child begins school and takes place throughout the year.

Transition activity	When
With the support of their Early Interventionist, Parents complete the "Transition to School Notification" report and sign a consent form allowing for their Early Interventionist to share the report with the school board to help them plan for your child's school entry.	October – November (year before school entry)
The Early Interventionist informs parents about the school board's dates, times and locations for the special education information session. These sessions provide information about the school programs and identify various school board personnel and resources.	November (year before school entry)
School boards schedule a transition meeting (to be held sometime between January and May) to discuss your child's special education needs. You may invite your Early Interventionist to attend if you would like support at this meeting.	December – February
You and your Early Interventionist review the Family Service Plan to make sure it includes transition to school goals/outcomes.	January
Parents register their child at their home school.	January
School boards host special education information evenings for parents.	January
Parents attend a transition meeting with the school board.	January – May
Your Early Interventionist will complete an End of Service Report, and you will be discharged from Infant and Child Development Services. You may wish to share any relevant reports, service plans or documentation with your child's classroom teacher if you feel it would support their transition.	August



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS



There are many special education options available. Discuss which options are best for your child with your Early Interventionist, who will help facilitate the transition.

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (YCDSB)

» ycdsb.ca/programs-services/kindergarten/

Visit the Student Services/Special Education page

» ycdsb.ca/programs-services/studentsservices/ for the following:

- Parent's Guide to Special Education (available in English, Italian, Spanish and Cantonese)
- Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC) Process
- Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Programs/Services
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

FRENCH CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD (MONAVENIR)

» cscmonavenir.ca

Visit the Student Services page

» cscmonavenir.ca/services/service-a-leve/ for the following:

- Specialized services available for students with autism, learning disabilities, developmental delays, low vision/blindness, speech delay and more

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (YRDSB)

» www2.yrdsb.ca/

Visit the Student Support Services/Special Education page

» [Special Education | York Region District School Board \(yrdsb.ca\)](http://www2.yrdsb.ca/special-education/) for the following:

- Referral process - Guide for parents with information on Special Education, the Individual Education Plan (IEP), Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC)
- Special Equipment Amount (SEA)
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Special Education Plan (SEP)
- Online resources to support students with special needs

FRENCH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD (VIAMONDE)

» csviamonde.ca

Visit the Student Services page

» *Enfance en difficulté (csviamonde.ca)* for the following:

- The Parent's Guide
- Annual Plan for Special Education
- Individual Education Plan (IEP)

HOMESCHOOLING IN ONTARIO

Ontario Federation of Teaching Parents

» ontariohomeschool.org

Education Act

» ontario.ca/laws/statute/90e02

Policy/Program Memorandum No.131

» edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/131.html

Ontario Curriculum

» edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/

SPECIALIZED TREATMENT AND ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Autism Ontario Program

» ontario.ca/autism

- Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Kinark Child and Family Services: Autism Services

» kinarkautismservices.ca

- Applied Behavioural Analysis school support staff help children with autism transition effectively into school

W. Ross Macdonald School for the Deaf and Blind

» pdsbnet.ca/en/schools/w-ross-macdonald/

- Deafblind Resource Services at the W. Ross Macdonald School provides consultative services for pre-school and school aged children up to the age of 21, with deafblindness residing within the Province of Ontario
- Resource consultants available to work with blind/visually impaired and deafblind students

SPECIALIZED TREATMENT AND ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS (cont.)

Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf

- » pdsbnet.ca/en/schools/sir-james-whitney/
 - Provides education for students from junior kindergarten to grade 8 with American Sign Language and English as the primary languages of student and communication

Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf

- » pdsbnet.ca/en/schools/ernest-c-drury/
 - Offers a wide range of programming for students ages four to 21

Bloorview School Authority at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

- » bloorviewschool.ca
 - Individualized education programs together with ongoing therapeutic and medical care





YORK REGION INCLUSION SUPPORT SERVICES



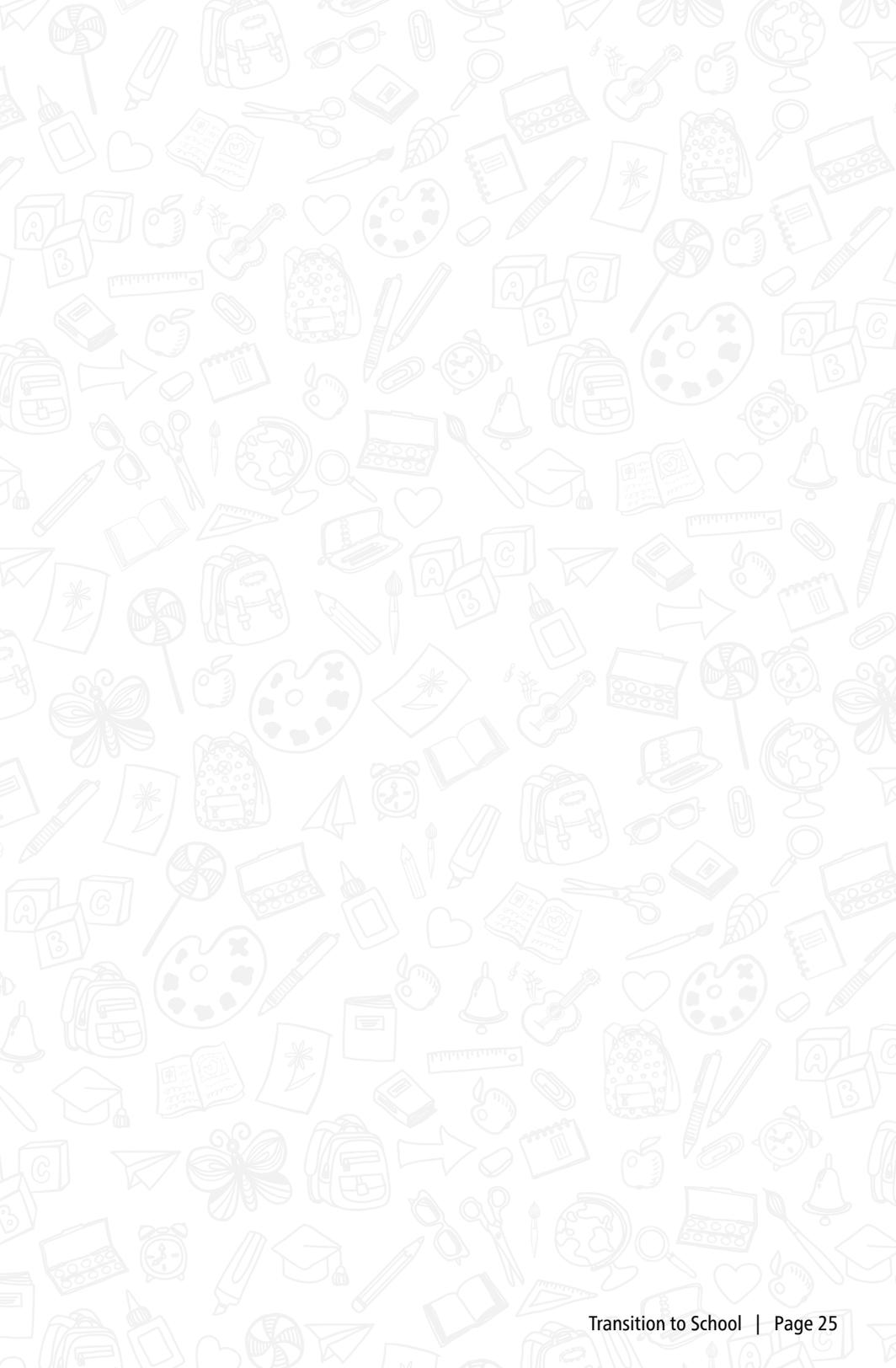
York Region Inclusion Support Services support to School-Age Programs

How is support provided?

Inclusion Support Services provides the following supports to licensed school-age programs, caring for children ages four to 13, in York Region:

- Collaborative classroom consultation for early learning and child care professionals by a York Region Early Interventionist
- Capacity building educational opportunities on inclusive practices
- Learning opportunities to promote children’s social and emotional skills, and interest in learning through Positive Early Childhood Education Program (PECE) coaching
- Connections to other resources in the community, including children’s mental health supports and York Region school boards
- In partnership with the early learning and child care program, the Early Interventionist will develop a classroom plan tailored to the needs of the after-school program to build more inclusive practices to support children of all abilities

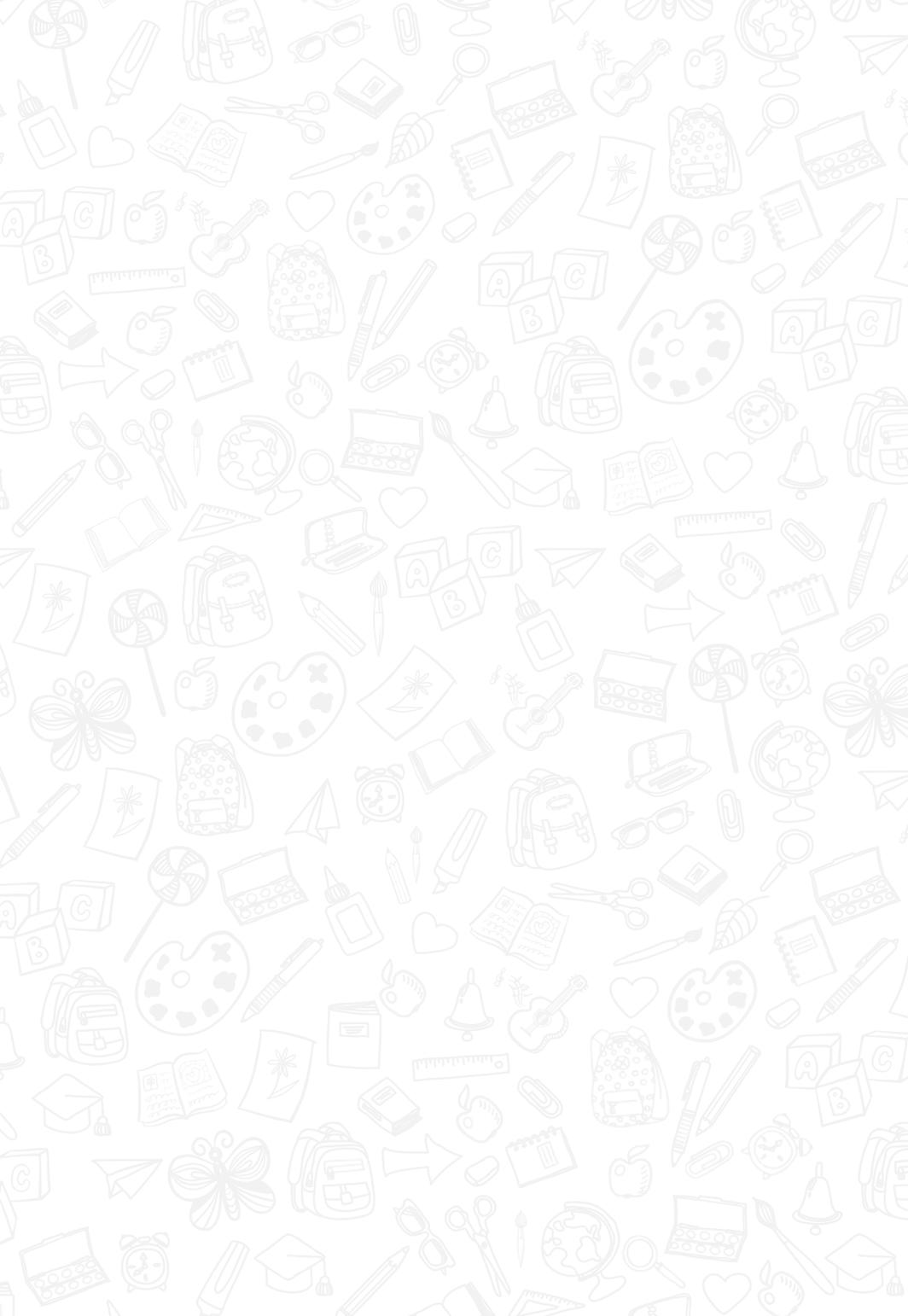
Licensed after-school programs can make a classroom or child-specific consultation request by submitting the Inclusion Support Services School-Age Consultation Request Form to Inclusion Support Services at york.ca/specialneeds





ONLINE RESOURCES





AUTISM SPEAKS – TIPS TO GET YOUR CHILD WHO HAS AUTISM READY TO START SCHOOL

(This is an American website – some tips regarding schools are not applicable to education in Ontario)

» act.autismspeaks.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=10462.0&dlv_id=14709

BEST START

Ontario's Maternal Newborn and Early Child Development Resource Centre: A Booklet for Parents - Learning to Play and Playing to Learn: Getting Ready for School

» beststart.org/resources/hlthy_chld_dev/pdf/school_readiness_english_fnl.pdf

CONNECTABILITY

Tips for parents, caregivers and teachers

» connectability.ca/category/kids

EASTER SEALS

Tips sheets for parents for successful transitions to school

» education.easterseals.org/category/supporting-success/supporting-student-transitions/

EYE SEE...EYE LEARN PROGRAM

Vision program sponsored by the Government of Ontario

» optom.on.ca/esel/

KERRY'S PLACE AUTISM SERVICES

Parent Guide to School Supports and Parent Guide to Advocacy within the School System

» kerrysplace.org

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF CHILDREN, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

» ontario.ca/page/children-special-need

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

» edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/

Please speak to your Early Interventionist if you have any questions about this guide.

York Region Early Intervention Services office locations:

GEORGINA

24262 Woodbine Avenue
Georgina, ON L4P 3E9

MARKHAM

9275 Markham Road, Unit 15
Markham, ON L6E 1A2

NEWMARKET

17150 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 8X7

RICHMOND HILL

50 High Tech Road, 4th floor
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4N7

13175 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill, ON L4E 0G6

VAUGHAN

9060 Jane Street, 2nd floor
Vaughan, ON L4K 0G5

To learn more about York Region
Early Intervention Services, please visit
york.ca/specialneeds or call the
KIDS Line at 1-888-703-KIDS (5437).

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

york.ca/children
[#StartswithkidsYR](https://twitter.com/StartswithkidsYR)