



## Facts

- Children may start school in September if they turn 4 yrs. (JK) or 5 yrs. (SK) by December 31 of that school year. They are not legally required to attend school until age 6.
- Your choices are; enroll your child in your neighbourhood school, enroll your child in school and continue with nursery school/child care centre program on alternate days, do not enroll your child.
- You may change your mind at any time during the process however, early planning provides time to put supports in place.
- Discuss your child's special needs and your options with your current service provider (Therapist, or ECE Resource Teacher) whoever you are most comfortable and familiar with.
- If you choose to enroll your child in school, contact the principal of your neighbourhood school to find out how and when to enroll your child in school. Also, tell the principal about your child's special needs.

**If at anytime you have questions or concerns, call your child's (Therapist, ECE Resource Teacher or the contact at the school).**



## Tips for Parents

- Planning ahead helps with a smooth transition to the school system.
- It is suggested that you start this process the fall prior to your child entering school to help provide lots of time for planning.
- The principal is your first contact at the school. He/she may assign another staff to be your contact within the school.
- Ask about the school's information night for parents.



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# Steps to School for Children with Special Needs



**This information is being provided by Pathways Health Centre for Children in partnership with**

**St. Clair Catholic District School Board  
And  
Lambton Kent District School Board**



# SCHOOL ENTRY PROCESS

For preschool children transitioning into The Lambton Kent District School Board or the St. Clair Catholic District School Board.

## Definitions

### ➤ **Children With High Needs**

Children with High Needs may require additional support in the classroom, may require special equipment, staffing or specialized transportation. High needs children may require assistance with transition (e.g., autism, behaviour or mental health needs). A Special Needs Preschool Intake Package will be completed and a Transition to School meeting will be held with Central Board Office staff.

### ➤ **Children With Moderate Needs With a Special Needs Preschool Intake Package**

Children may require accommodation/or modifications to their environment and school program. A Special Needs Preschool Intake Package will be completed and a Transition to School meeting will be held with Central Board Office staff.



### ➤ **Children With Moderate Needs With a Transition Summary Sheet**

Teachers will be informed about the individual student's needs and the student will be monitored on an ongoing basis. No Special Needs Preschool Intake Package or Transition to School meeting required. A Transition Summary Sheet is completed and shared with board personnel.

## **SEPTEMBER (one year before)**

- Explore options for JK/SK registration

## **OCTOBER**

- Pathways will develop a list of children eligible for school entry for the following September

## **NOVEMBER**

- "School Entry Information Sessions" for parents held at Pathways.
- Children will be prioritized based on their needs. Some children will require a "Transition to School Meeting".
- Consents are signed to allow the exchange of information.

## **DECEMBER/JANUARY**

- Special Education Coordinator/Consultant will arrange observation visits as needed.

## **JANUARY**

- Staff complete the Special Needs Preschool Intake Packages and Transition Summary Sheets.

## **FEBRUARY/MARCH**

- Transition Meetings are scheduled for children identified with high and moderate needs with a Special Needs Preschool Intake Package.
- Once child's school / classroom is determined the parents will register the child at the appropriate school.
- The Board of Education personnel and /or principal and / or resource teacher are encouraged to arrange an on-site observation of the child following the preliminary meeting.

## **MAY / JUNE**

- The School team is strongly encouraged to set up a conference to review the transition plan and ensure systems are in place for Sept. At this meeting, all involved with the child will be invited.

