



Special Needs Program

Special Needs Coordinator – Mrs. Stephanie Scott

I. Objective of the Special Needs Program.

The objective of the Special Education program is to develop, implement and coordinate an organized, well-documented, successful program for students beginning in the Early Intervention Program through to grade three while taking into consideration: student needs, parental concerns, staff input and Alberta Education requirements. It is the responsibility of the Special Needs Coordinator to be an advocate for all students to ensure they receive the programming that best suits their needs.

II. Role of the Special Education Coordinator.

Some of the duties of the Special Education Coordinator include:

- helping teachers create Individual Program Plans to meet student needs
- student testing and placement
- meeting with parents and teachers to ensure that the student's program meets his/her needs
- coordinating Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Counseling and other services for students as needed
- coordinating the Early Intervention Program for children aged 3 to 5.
- programming for severe needs students
- applying to Alberta Education for special funding for children with severe needs

III. Early Intervention Program Overview

The Early Intervention Program is funded through PUF at Alberta Education. PUF stands for Program Unit Funding. It is a specialized program for students that are aged 3 to 5 with severe needs. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Severe Speech Delay
- Severe Fine or Gross Motor Delay
- Autism
- Blindness
- Deafness
- Severe Behaviour Disability

If you suspect that your child has a learning disability please contact the school. We will then direct you to the appropriate service to have your child tested to see if he/she qualifies for this program.

IV. Speech Therapy

This service is provided to St. Mary School by Alberta Health. At the beginning of the year, the Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) will send home a permission slip to complete a quick screening on all kindergarten students. From this the SLP will be able to identify if your child requires speech therapy. You will be notified accordingly and asked to grant permission to have the SLP work with your child within our school during their regularly scheduled day.

V. Occupational Therapy

This service is provided to St. Mary School by Alberta Health. At the beginning of the year, the Occupational Therapist (OT) will visit each kindergarten class to assist the teacher in identifying students who would benefit from occupational therapy. From this, your child's teacher will contact you and ask that you grant permission to have the OT work with your child within our school during their regularly scheduled day.

VI. Counseling

At St. Mary School we have counseling available through two services. The first is the Family Community Liaison Program (FCLP). This program is intended for children who are experiencing difficulties dealing with a loss such as death, divorce or separation. The FCLP counselor will work closely with the parents to help the child overcome these challenges.

The second service is provided through the Student Health Initiative Program (SHP). Currently, St. Mary School contracts Dr. Jim Canniff of Canniff and Associates. Dr. Jim, as he likes to be called, works with children who are struggling with behaviour within the classroom setting. He will meet with the parents as well if it is needed.