

## **EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS**

Because children have always been identified as having different needs and requiring various types of assistance, Beautiful Plains School Division is committed to the principle of identifying strengths and weaknesses of preschool and early years children. The purpose of this is to be aware of the special learning needs of students as early as possible and to provide intervention and/or special programs when appropriate.

To accomplish this goal we would encourage:

1. a team approach in information gathering from parents, nursery schools, public health, community services and others involved with preschoolers prior and at the time students first register for school. The Beautiful Plains School Division School Placement Information Sheet, Preschool Transition Form will be used for information exchange guidelines (see Appendix);
2. the use of the DIAL Kit or other screening instruments early in the kindergarten year;
3. strategies such as staggered entry to allow the kindergarten teacher opportunities to observe and get to know her students early in the year;
4. referral to the resource teacher, or division clinicians where a more in-depth diagnosis and/or program is needed; and
5. when available, annually apply for funding for the Early Identification and Education Programming (EIEP) to support the initiatives in the early childhood intervention process.

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