

Autism support for DECD sites:

- ❖ Children/students who are diagnosed as being on the Autism Spectrum are able to access support at their preschool/school. Initially this support would involve the staff at the preschool/school identifying the type of adjustments the child/student requires to access preschool/school successfully (adjustments to the environment, curriculum and/or instruction). This is a preschool/school responsibility and generally would not require additional funding to achieve. One such support is whole class/school/pre-school interoception teaching which support individuals to learn the skills required to self-regulate and self-manage.
- ❖ As part of planning support for children/students on the autism spectrum, there are two additional tools available – Autism Spectrum Support Plan and Sensory Overview. These are collaborative documents designed to be completed with children/students, families and staff from the preschool/school. The preschool/school may seek additional support from Student Support Services to complete these documents. These documents enable families and educators to work together to record all the reasonable accommodations necessary for a child/young person to access the curriculum on the same basis as their peers.
- ❖ The preschool/school should ensure the individual learning plan (Autism Support Plan, Negotiated Education Plan, Learning Plan, or One Child One Plan) which documents the strengths and needs of the child/student as well as individual adjustments and goals is completed within 4-6weeks of the child/students starting at the preschool/school. Regular reviews (termly or at least twice a year) should be held with the family and where possible include input from the child/young person.
- ❖ For many children/students, the adjustments and a differentiated approach to teaching is enough to ensure they are able to access the preschool/school environment successfully. Others may require some additional support to achieve this.
- ❖ In this case; advice and guidance should be sought by the preschool/school via a referral to Student Support Services, a DECD service based in all regional offices across the state and include Special Educators, Behaviour Support Coaches, Psychologists, Speech Pathologists and Social Workers. These service providers are available to work with preschools/schools to support children, students and families in a range of ways. Your local education office can provide further information.
- ❖ A preschool/school or service provider from Student Support Services may consult with staff from the Central Education Office and/or seek additional support and advice for particular children/students as needed.
- ❖ Extra funding is a small part of the overall supports and although 1:1 support can be beneficial evidence is that children and young people are more successful when any 1:1 support is not long term.