Preparation for School Entry

Tania Piperni and Vanessa Too ASD Consultants, Student Services Department English Montreal School Board

General Information

- 9 English School Boards in Quebec
 - EMSB is one of largest English School Board
 - School Boards divided by territory
- Senior Management Team
 - Ministerial laws and policies
 - Internal mandates and orientations

Inclusion

- Educational approach and philosophy
- Children with special needs are part of the regular stream and are included in the social and academic lives of their community schools
 - Supportive environment: unique needs and learning styles are attended to and valued
 - Opportunities to participate
 - Opportunities to build positive relationships

Supports for Students with Special Needs



Child Care Workers

- Child Care Workers (CCW)
 - Hired and assigned by the School Board.
 - Parents cannot choose/parents cannot hire a private worker.
 - Could change year to year.
- Training
 - High School Diploma
 - Many have post-secondary degrees (but this is not mandatory)
 - Professional Development provided by the School Board throughout the year

Additional Support

- Additional support offered through Student Services on an as-needed basis:
 - Special Education Consultant
 - ASD Consultant
 - ASD Support Team
 - Project Harbour (Behaviours)
 - Assistive Technology Consultant

Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

- Document which identifies the student's specific learning expectations and outlines how the school will address those expectations.
 - Identifies student's strengths and needs
 - Sets objectives
 - Describes methods and resources
 - Defines roles and responsibilities
 - Written by school team, along with input from the parents
 - Working document that is reviewed throughout the year
 - A student with a handicap code must have an IEP, any student without a handicap code may have an IEP

School Options

- 2 French programs available at the Elementary Level
 - Extended French
 - option 1: French Immersion
 - option 2: Bilingual
 - English Core
- Check EMSB website to identify the corresponding program according to your address (School Finder)

https://apps.emsb.qc.ca/schoolfinder

Self-Contained Classes

Elementary Programs

- Early Stimulation (age 4-5)
- Welcoming Class (kindergarten/grade 1)
- ASD Jr (grades 1-2-3) and Sr (grades 4-5-6)
- SEEDS Jr (grade 1-2-3) and Sr (grades 4-5-6)

Transportation is provided for elementary only

High School Programs

- Allongé
- Aim High

Self-Contained Classes continued

Student cannot register directly for these classes. Student is to register in community school and then school board professionals will contact parents if student meets criteria. Transportation is available.

http://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/services/special-needs/programs

Collaboration with Outside Services

- Private Therapists (ABA, OT, SLP, etc) can collaborate with the school by attending IEP meetings
- Private therapists are not allowed to provide therapy in the school

• Private therapists can contact student service professionals to consult and share information with consent from the parents

Collaboration with Re-adaptation Centres (CRDI)

- CRDI educator can observe in the classroom by making an appointment with the school; recommendations can be made but not imposed
- Arrangements can be made for ABA therapy to be conducted in the school
 - on a case-by-case basis, space permitting
 - upon agreement by school principal and director of student services
- Student may attend kindergarten on a part-time basis in order to pursue ABA therapy at home; this decision is made prior to the child starting school

Registration process

- Locate community schools
- Visit open houses or make an appointment
- Register at the school during registration period
- Provide the following documents: proof of English eligibility, birth certificate, ASD diagnosis report, any reports done by therapists (e.g. OT, SLP, ABA, etc)
- Contact registration department for questions regarding eligibility
- If school is within your zone, transportation can be provided by school board
- If school is out of your zone, bussing will NOT be provided and acceptance in the school depends on number of students already registered from within school zone

Registration Pathway



Preparing Children for Kindergarten

- Focus on functional autonomy
- Try to space out reinforcement schedules and to fade food reinforcers
- Generalize acquired skills
- Provide opportunities for developing play skills and peer socialization
- Take pictures of the chosen school and create social stories about the school
- Have a school visit in August to meet the teacher and become familiar with the classroom



 English Montreal School Board <u>www.emsb.qc.ca</u> 514-483-7200

Registration Department

Questions???

Thank you!