

WELCOME TO REACH! **PARENT INFORMATION**

As your child is being referred to REACH for services, we thought you would like to know more about the REACH team.

What is REACH?

REACH is one of four educational support teams in the province and is funded by Alberta Education. REACH covers the area from Red Deer south with offices in Calgary, Lethbridge and Red Deer.

What does REACH do?

REACH helps the school in developing and putting into practice programs for students with severe learning needs. REACH is committed to providing a service that helps students access and participate in their school programs.

What Educational Support Services are Available from REACH?

REACH staff will travel to your child's school and provide support at the school to help meet the needs of your child. Included in this service may be:

- **Assessment** to determine your child's strengths and areas of need
- **Consultation** to the classroom to support developing programs, providing materials, identifying equipment needs, modelling ways of working with your child, etc.
- Supporting the learning team to make decisions about **Assistive Technology**
- Working with the school to make the **Transition** from one school to another easier for your child.
- Providing **Workshops** that support the development of student programs.

What does CONSULTATION mean?

The REACH team will work with the teachers and educational assistants to decide how to meet your child's needs in their every day classroom activities.

Consultation can include:

- meeting with the teacher and teaching assistants to discuss ideas to help your child learn
- observing your child in the classroom and in different areas of the school (e.g. gym, computer lab, playground) to help determine appropriate strategies, activities, resources and equipment
- meeting with parents for planning conferences and Individual Program Plan (IPP) meetings
- giving information about special services that will help your child participate more in the classroom
- developing understanding and knowledge of your child's individual needs.

Please note that REACH does not provide direct therapy where your child is pulled out of class on a regular basis to work on certain areas.

Who is on the REACH Team?

- Education Consultant for the Visually Impaired
- Orientation and Mobility Consultant for the Visually Impaired
- Education Consultant for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Educational Audiologist
- Psychologist
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist

What is my Involvement with the REACH Team?

- Please discuss with your child's classroom teacher which of the above team members have been requested for your child.
- Discuss with the teacher how you will get information about REACH school visits and REACH reports.
- Keep the teacher informed of any important information related to your child. For example, if they are being seen by a doctor or clinic, medication changes, other agencies working with your child or programs they are participating in. This information is important for the REACH team and the school to know about.

We hope this information will help you as you fill out the Home Information forms as part of the referral process to REACH.

IF THESE FORMS ARE NOT FILLED OUT AND RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL, REACH SERVICES CAN NOT BE PROVIDED TO YOUR CHILD.