

## Definitions for Children's Services

**Intellectual Disability:** An intellectual (or developmental) disability is a life-long condition, usually present at birth or originating in the early years of childhood, which interferes with one's ability to learn at the same pace or to the same extent as others. Individuals may have difficulty understanding abstract concepts or adapting to some of the demands of daily life.

**Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA):** ABA is a broad field of intervention utilizing scientific principles of learning and behaviour to change behaviour by either increasing desirable skills or decreasing undesirable ones. The principles are effective with people of all ages based on an individualized analysis, the use of specific reinforcers, regular assessment of progress, and program modification as required based on data collected. (Adapted from Geneva Centre for Autism, 2007)

**Individual Education Plan (IEP):** An IEP is a written plan describing the special education program and/or services required by a particular student. It identifies learning expectations that are modified from or alternative to the expectations given in the curriculum policy document for the appropriate grade and subject or course, and/or any accommodations and special education services needed to assist the student in achieving his or her learning expectations. (For information on modified and alternative expectations. The IEPs of students who have no modified or alternative expectations will focus only on accommodations and services.) The IEP is *not* a daily lesson plan itemizing every detail of the student's education.

**Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC):** The IPRC will decide whether the student is an exceptional pupil and, if so, what type of educational placement is appropriate. The principal may also, on written notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s), refer the student to an IPRC. The parent(s)/guardian(s), as well as a student who is sixteen years of age or older, have the right to attend the IPRC meeting and may request that the IPRC discuss potential programs that would meet the student's needs. On the basis of these discussions, the IPRC can recommend the special education programs and/or services that it considers to be appropriate for the student.

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):** ASD is a developmental disorder characterized by deficits in social communication and social interaction, as well as restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests, and activities.

The preceding definition was taken from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (DSM-V).