



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON ACCESSING SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS



EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

Frequently Asked Questions

1. My child is not able to do the things that other children his / her age can do. How do I know if he/she needs help?

From the moment of their birth, children are constantly learning! Learning how to use their bodies, their voices; learning to use their brains, and to manage their emotions. They are developing new skills as they grow and learn. Parents and guardians need to pay attention to the signs or milestones of your child's development.

It is important for you to be aware of the children's developmental milestones so you can know when to expect your child to learn new skills, such as crawling, walking, and talking, playing alone or with others. Sometimes children have delays in development. Knowing about these signs of typical development give you a clear set of skills to keep an eye on

Follow the link to learn more about developmental milestones:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/concerned.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>
- <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/speech-and-language>



2. Who can I contact for help?

If you have concerns about your child's development, you can speak with your district nurse or doctor at your local health centre, or with your private health care provider. They will check on your child's progress on with regard to these milestones during routine visits. These visits will give you a chance to ask questions or talk about the concerns you might have.

In the school setting, you can also discuss your concerns with your child's teacher or with members of the Student Support Services Division.

- Listing of Local Health Centres <https://health.gov.tt/health-facilities>
- You may also send an email to specialeducationsssd@moe.gov.tt
- or call the **Special Education Unit-SSSD** at 622-2181 Extension 1033



3. My child is of school age and has a disability. Can I access placement at a general education public school?

Yes. The Inclusive Education Policy (2009) states that “All children regardless of their physical intellectual, social, emotional or other conditions are entitled to schooling and an opportunity to be supported by the State”(pg. 5).

Parents may seek placement for their children with or without disabilities at schools within or near their areas of residence. Ask to speak with the Principal or member of the School-Based Intervention Team about the registration process.

Placement of children of school-age at any public school falls under the purview of the Division of School Supervision and Management. If you have tried several schools and are having difficulties in gaining admission for your child, please visit your Education District Office for your area and ask to speak with a School Supervisor. Send an email to:

<i>Division of School Supervision</i>	<i>dss@moe.gov.tt</i>
<i>Caroni Education District Office</i>	<i>caronidistrict@moe.gov.tt</i>
<i>North Eastern Education District Office</i>	<i>need.district@moe.gov.tt</i>
<i>Port of Spain & Environs Education District Office</i>	<i>posdistrict@moe.gov.tt</i>
<i>St. George East Educational District Office</i>	<i>stgeorgeeastdistrict@moe.gov.tt</i>
<i>St. Patrick Education District Office</i>	<i>stpatrickdistrict@moe.gov.tt</i>
<i>South Eastern Education District Office</i>	<i>southeasterndistrict@moe.gov.tt</i>
<i>Victoria Education District Office</i>	<i>victoriaeducationdistrict@moe.gov.tt</i>

4. Can my child’s special needs be met in the general education setting?



Many students with various types and degrees of disability have received schooling within general settings with the support of administrators, teachers and personnel from the Student Student Support Services Division. Special accommodations may be required for some students with severe to profound physical and/or developmental disabilities. The principal of any receiving school may refer a student requiring additional support to the Student Support Services Division immediately upon the child’s registration at the school.

In consultation with Special Education Personnel of SSSD, the particular needs of a student will be assessed. Through the screening and consultation process, appropriate support services may be identified, and the most desirable placement options may be explored.

If a student's particular needs cannot be immediately or adequately met within the general public education school system, the student may be referred to a public special school.

You may call 622-2181 Ext. 1033 for further information, or email the Special Education District Officer (Diagnostic Specialist) for the respective Education District.



Caroni Education District	specialeducation.caroni@moe.gov.tt
North Eastern Education District	specialeducation.ne@moe.gov.tt
Port of Spain & Environs Education District	specialeducation.pos@moe.gov.tt
South Eastern Education District	specialeducation.se@moe.gov.tt
St. George East Education District	specialeducation.stge@moe.gov.tt
St. Patrick Education District	specialeducation.stpatrick@moe.gov.tt
Victoria Education District	specialeducation.victoria@moe.gov.tt

5. My child is in a general education setting but I think he / she needs additional support. What can I do?

A student in need of special education support and intervention, educational guidance, counselling, or social work services usually displays learning or behavioral problems within the classroom setting. Be sure to discuss your concerns with your child's class teacher or the School's Principal.

You may also request to be referred to the Student Support Services Officer assigned to your child's school. Request an appointment to speak with the Special Education Officer, Guidance Officer, or School Social Worker at your school to discuss your child's specific challenges.

Through such consultation, you may be able to access the additional support and intervention your child needs. Support may be available in the form of screening and assessment, alternative intervention strategies, additional resources and /or classroom support.

6. What assistance is available through the Student Support Services Division?

The Student Support Services Division offers a range of psycho-social, educational and behavioural services to support students' development and learning. The Division implements a multidisciplinary approach to the provision of services to all students inclusive of children with disabilities and other special needs. The Student Support Services Division brings together four major units which offer the following services to students at the Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary levels:

Student Support Services Division	
<p><i>Guidance and Counselling Unit:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Counselling</i> <i>Educational Advising</i> <i>Career Advising</i> <i>Select /Targeted Intervention</i> <i>Consultation</i> <i>Management of Referrals</i> <i>Information Services</i> <i>Parent Education</i> <i>Teacher Education</i> <i>Coordination of Learning Enhancement Centre</i> 	<p><i>School Social Work Unit:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Crisis Intervention</i> <i>Parenting in Education</i> <i>Home Visits</i> <i>Individual and Group Work</i> <i>Advocacy</i> <i>Networking</i> <i>Community Engagement</i> <i>External Referrals</i> <i>Family Intervention</i> <i>Care and Protection of Students</i>
<p><i>Special Education Unit:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>School Based-Needs Assessment/Referral Management – (Internal and External Referrals)</i> <i>Consultation and Advisory Services</i> <i>Client & Parent Support and Advocacy</i> <i>Diagnostic Screening and Assessment</i> <i>Curriculum-based Support and Intervention</i> <i>Curricula Accommodation/Modification</i> <i>Development of Individualized Education Plans</i> <i>The Management of Special Concessions</i> <i>Transition Planning and Services</i> <i>Access to Special Needs Grants</i> <i>Paraprofessional Support Services (Sign Language Interpreter Assistant or and Special Education Teacher Aide)</i> <i>Sensitization and Training Programmes</i> 	<p><i>Diagnostic Assessment / Intervention Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Consultations</i> <i>Psychological Evaluations</i> <i>Psycho-Educational Assessments</i> <i>Functional Behavioral Assessments</i> <i>Behavior Modification Therapy</i> <i>Psychotherapeutic Support</i> <i>Promoting Mental Health in Education</i> <i>Online Therapeutic Behavioural Intervention</i> <i>Awareness/Sensitizations Workshops</i> <i>Symposium</i>

Visit our webpage for more information <https://www.moe.gov.tt/student-support-services-division/>

7. I believe that my child's needs will be better served in a special education setting. What placement options are available?

There are both public and private special education settings that can be explored.

Public Special Schools

No.	SCHOOL	ADDRESS	CONTACT	EMAIL
1	Audrey Jeffers School for the Deaf	34-36 Crook Avenue, Gopaul Lands, Marabella	658-5479	audreyjeffersschoolforthe deaf@gmail.com AudreyJeffers.pri@fac.edu.tt
2	Cascade School for the Deaf	19 cascade Road, Cascade	624-3661	cascadeschoolforthe deaf@fac.edu.tt, sftd@yahoo.com
3	Princess Elizabeth Special School for the Physically Handicapped	101 Ariapita Avenue, Woodbrook	623-3877	princesslizpsch@hotmail.com
4	Pointe-a-Pierre Government Special School	# 6 Casaurina Avenue, Bonne Aventure Park, Petrotrin Compound, Pointe-a-Pierre	658-4293	pointeapierregov.spec@fac.edu.tt, pointeapierrespecial@gmail.com
5	School for the Blind	Range Rd. Five Rivers		schoolforblindchildren@gmail.com
6	Wharton Patrick Special School	2A Sydenham Avenue, St. Anns	623-1226	whartonpatrickschool1958@ymail.com, whartonpatrick.pri@fac.edu.tt
7	Lady Hochoy School - Cocorite	Harding Place, Cocorite	628-3040	ladyhochoycocorite.pri@fac.edu.tt
8	Lady Hochoy School - Gasparillo	Lady Hochoy Avenue, Harmony Hall, Gasparillo	650-2164	ladyhochoysch.gas@gmail.com
9	Lady Hochoy School - Penal	Oliverie Drive, Clarke Road, Penal	647-4134	ladyhochoypenal@live.com
10	Lady Hochoy School - Arima. (Memisa Day Training Centre)	Heights of Gunapo, Arima	664-5622	ladyhochoyarima@live.com
11	Interdisciplinary Child Development Centre	De Gannes Street, Couva	636-3605	icdctt@gmail.com
12	Tobago School for the Deaf, Speech and Language Impaired	Centre Street, Bon Accord, Tobago	639-3582 639-5943	schoolforthe deaf.pri@fac.edu.tt
13	Happy Haven Special School	Signal Hill, Tobago	639-3167	happysch@gmail.com

Private Special Schools Registered with the Ministry of Education

DICTRICT	SCHOOL	ADDRESS	CONTACT	EMAIL
POS&E	Eshe's Learning Centre	105 Ariapita Ave, Port Of Spain	622-7206	esheslearningcentre@gmail.com
POS&E	Goodwill Industries Of The West Indies	9 Fitz Blackman Drive, Wrightson Rd Ext., Port Of Spain	622-8867 624-1834	babsoal@yahoo.com
POS&E	Immortelle Children Center For Special Education (Jnr/Snr)	2a St. Ann's Gardens, St. Anns & Duke Street Port Of Spain	621-2944 733-5287	jleotaud@hotmail.com immortellecentre@gmail.com
POS&E	New Beginnings	7 Cassia Drive, Petit Valley	633-0112 790-4834	newbegincentre@gmail.com
POS&E	Servol Special School (Sunshine Hill)	Calvary Hill, Port Of Spain	624-0505	servolspecialschool@hotmail.com
POS&E	Palmeras Learning Centre	3 Warner St., Newtown, Port Of Spain	628-8302 371-8445	palmeraslearningcentre@gmail.com
SGE	Charis Works Christian Academy	Lot A & B Orange Grove Rd., Tacarigua	640-4640 487-9347	charisworksinc@gmail.com
SGE	Strategic Learning Centre & Special Education Institute	1st Street East, Cane Farm, Trincity	749-3938 640-5437	susandefreitas@flowtrinidad.net
SGE	Eternal Light Vocational Community	Backstreet, Tunapuna	662-7616	elvs_05@hotmail.com
V.E.D	National Centre For Persons With Disabilities	7-21 New Street, San Fernando	657-3525 652-4880	ncpd1@hotmail.com ncptrinidad@gmail.com
V.E.D	Happy Venture Special School	19 Marryat Street, San Fernando	652-2353 627-9384	servolhappyventure@gmail.com
POS&E	Life Centre	Cascade	470-3013	lifecentrett@gmail.com
S.E.E.D	Rio Claro Learning & Development Centre For Special Children	2580a Naparima Mayaro Rd, Rio Claro	352-7049	rioclarospecialschool@outlook.com

You may consult with special education personnel in your district to explore these options.

8. Is home schooling an option for my child with a disability?



Home Schooling is an option for parents of students with or without disabilities. The Special Education Unit of Student Support Services Division may offer consultation and advisory services for parents opting to homeschool their child with special needs due to the presence of a disability. The Unit may also facilitate referrals to external support agencies as required.

*Parents and caregivers may also benefit from the support and general guidelines on homeschooling offered through the **Home School Association of Trinidad and Tobago**.*

Visit them <https://www.homeschool-life.com/1450/faq/?public=1&private>

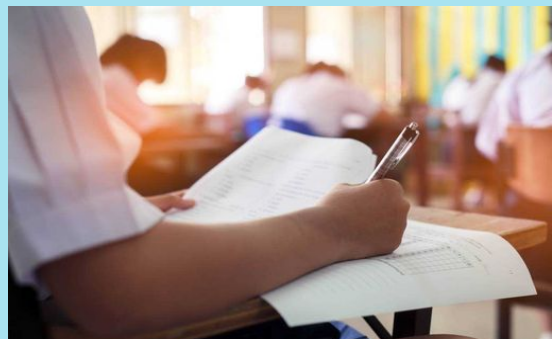
9. My child with special needs is registered for an examination. What supports are available for him/her?

The Ministry of Education caters for students with disabilities and other special needs writing local examinations through the provision of special examination concessions. Special concessions (Alternative Arrangements) are intended to level the playing field for students whose disabilities/special needs negatively impact their performance.

These arrangements are outlined in the “Policy Guidelines for the Provision of Alternative Arrangements (Special Concessions) for Students Writing Local Examinations”.

Follow the link below to learn more about Special Concessions:

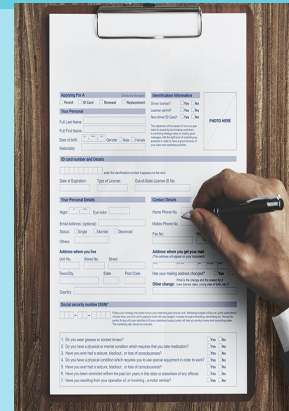
<https://www.moe.gov.tt/special-concessions-for-local-examinations/>



10. What is the process of applying for a concession for my child registered for local or regional examinations?

Applications for Special Concessions on behalf of eligible students due to write local Examinations before the deadline date stipulated in that particular year. These guidelines and forms can be downloaded from the Ministry's website at moe.gov.tt

*You may contact the **Examinations Section** at 622-2181 Ext.1113, 1114 or the **Concession Secretariat** at 622-2181 Ext 1033 for further information.*



11. I need help! Are there any support groups or organizations to assist / support the parents of children with disabilities?



CONSORTIUM
OF DISABILITY
ORGANISATIONS

The Consortium of Disability Organisations (CODO) is the umbrella organization for disability in Trinidad and Tobago. Their membership consists of forty-three (43) disability organizations recognized by the government of Trinidad and Tobago. Their members include Disability Service Providers as well as representative Disability Organizations.

No.	ORGANIZATION TYPE	DISABILITY SPECIALIZATION	ORGANIZATION/ ASSOCIATION	ADDRESS	CONTACT	EMAIL	WEBSITE
1	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	General	Agape Deaf Centre	Toucan Crest, Antoine Trace Quarry Village, Siparia	649-5613 681-4357	simar@tstt.net.tt	N.A.
2	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Reading	Adult Literacy Tutors Association	#84 Belmont Circular Road, Belmont, Port of Spain, Trinidad.	624-2582	altapos@alta-tt.org	https://alta-tt.org/
3.A	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Learning	Association for Developmental Education	7 Cassia Drive, Petit Valley	633-0112	fillishrm@yahoo.com newbegincentre@gmail.com	N.A.
3.B	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Learning	Association for Retarded Children	Lady Hochoy Circular Road, Cocorite	622-4714	N.A.	N.A.
4	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Learning	Association for Retarded Children	Lady Hochoy School, Clarke Road Penal	647-4134	N.A.	N.A.
5	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Learning Disability	Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago	Autism Place, Ragoo Road, Off Eastern Main Rad, D'Abadie	646-5506	autismtt@gmail.com	N.A.
6	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	General	Cerebral Palsy Society of Trinidad and Tobago	#168 El Socorro Road, San Juan		N.A.	N.A.
7	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	General	Combined Disabilities of Trinidad and Tobago (CDTT)	Chaconia Avenue Pleasantville, San Fernando	653-1854 657-3525	Harrylalsingh2020@yahoo.com	N.A.
8	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Auditory	Deaf Pioneers	46 St. Joseph Street, Arima	768-2961	deaf_pioneers@yahoo.com	Home Deafpioneers (deafpioneerstt.org)
9	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	General	Disabled Women's Network	13A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain	627-8919	N.A.	N.A.

10	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Learning	Down Syndrome Family Network	Maraval Road, Queen's Park West, Port Of Spain	746-1618	dsfamilynetwork@gmail.com	Down Syndrome Family Network (dsfamilynetwork.org)
11	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	General	Families of the Disabled	N.A.	632-1710	N.A.	N.A.
12	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Learning	Moms for Literacy	62 Silvermill Street, San Juan	638-6667	N.A.	https://www.momsforliteracycaribbean.com
13.A	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Visual	Persons Associated with Visual Impairment	#32 Eastern Main Road, St. Augustine	220-1073	paviltt@gmail.com	N.A.
13.B	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Visual	Trinidad and Tobago Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	118 Duke Street, Port of Spain	624-3809	ttblindwelfare@tst.net.tt	N.A.
14	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Visual	Trinidad and Tobago Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	121 Coffee Street, Lower Hillside, San Fernando	652-2079	mrkennethsuratt@gmail.com	N.A.
15	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Auditory	Trinidad and Tobago Association for the Hearing Impaired (DRETCHI)	13C Wrightson Road, Port of Spain	623-0613	association@dretchi.org.tt	Home (dretchi.org.tt)
16	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Learning	Trinidad and Tobago Association for Retarded Children	Lady Hochoy Home, Harding Street, Cocorite	622-4495	N.A.	N.A.
17	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Learning	Trinidad and Tobago National Association for Down Syndrome	2 Sydenham Avenue, St. Anns, Port of Spain	625-9787	N.A.	N.A.
18	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Visual	W.R. Torres Foundation for the Blind	4th Floor Capital Plaza, Frederick Street, Port of Spain	623-0940	N.A.	N.A.
20	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	General	Tobago Council for Handicapped Children Inc.	Happy Haven School, Signal Hill, Tobago	639-3167	happysch@gmail.com	Happy Haven School – We Can
21	VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION	Learning	Dyslexia Association of Trinidad and Tobago	31 Alberto Street, Woodbrook	625-5869	info@dyslexiatt.org	Dyslexia Association (Trinidad & Tobago) (dyslexiatt.org)

22	VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION	Learning	Adult Literacy Tutors Association (ALTA)	84 Belmont Circular Road, Port Of Spain	624-2582	altapos.tt@gmail.com altapos@alta-tt.org	ALTA Website (alta-tt.org)
23	VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION	General	KIND (Kids in Need of Direction)	#9 Eastern Main Road, Laventille	626-5463	info@kindkid.org	Kids in Need of Direction KIND Trinidad NGO KIND (kindkid.org)
24	PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION	Psycho-Social	Caribbean Kids and Families Therapies Network (CKFTO)	#19 Vidale Street, St. James	628-3628	info@ckfto.org	Pediatric Assessment (ckfto.org)
25	PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION	Speech & Language	Speech and Language and Audiology Association of Trinidad and Tobago	Ranjit-Kumar Street, St. James	N.A.	keisha.lindsay@gmail.com tworkshoppe@gmail.com	Speech-Language and Audiology Association of Trinidad and Tobago - Speech-Language and Audiology Association of Trinidad and Tobago (slaatt.com)
26	PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION	Psycho-Social	Trinidad and Tobago Association of Psychologists (TTAP)	PO Box 887, #92 Wrightson Road, Port of Spain	N.A.	secretary@tpsych.org	N.A.
27	PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION	General	Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association	N.A.	N.A.	ttota.info@gmail.com	Trinidad & Tobago Occupational Therapy Association - Home (ttota.com)
28	GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION	Psycho-Social	Child Guidance Clinic	Pembroke and Gordon Street, Port of Spain	623-2348	N.A.	N.A.
29	GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION	General	Ministry of Social Development and Family Services	#45 A-C St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain	623-2608	info@social.gov.tt	Support for Persons with Disabilities – Ministry of Social Development and Family Services http://www.social.gov.tt/contact-us/
30	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	Homeschooling Support	The Home School Association of Trinidad & Tobago		730-5075	homeschool.tt@gmail.com	https://www.homeschool-life.com/1450/faq/?public=1&private