



Planning for the Support of a Child with Special Needs

Observe the Child

- Make written notes
- Look for patterns and other signs of specific needs

Consult with others

- CNC Staff in your program
- SN Consultant
- Other professionals in the community

Discuss Observations with a Parent

- Before discussing your observations, plan carefully how you will share the information that you have gathered
- Provide language assistance to the parent(s) so they are better able to understand what is being communicated
- Another CNC Staff should be present
- Share observations
- State facts of observation only
- **DO NOT** jump to conclusions until you are certain that it is not a short-term behavioural issue
- Ask for potential explanations



- Listen carefully to what the parent is saying
- Keep in mind that the parent(s) might not accept or fully understand that the child has a special need
- Keep in mind that the parent(s) might not be familiar with the Canadian way of addressing children's special needs

Arrange for Support and Assistance

- If parent agrees to the need for professional support and assistance, provide the family with information they need to access the services of other professionals
- If parent does not accept/agree that child has a specific need but agrees that support is needed, continue observations and provide appropriate activities, maintain contact with parent

Support Staff

- Support staff by altering the environment, adapting materials, modifying an activity, and establishing peer support
- Contact your Special Needs Consultant if you need additional resources/training in this area