

Exceptional Needs

All children differ from one another to varying degrees. However, in some students the learning difficulties are more serious, and the children deviate more significantly in one way or another. These are youth who are exceptional in that their learning and behaviour deviates significantly from the norm. They may show differences in the physical, intellectual, communicative, social, or emotional domains, or in some combination of these.

Source: https://wps.pearsoned.ca/ca_ph_winzer_children_8/66/16943/4337612.cw/index.html

While experts in the field name and categorize them in different ways, exceptionalities fall into these basic, broad categories:



BEHAVIOURAL: concerning emotional and social struggles, as well as attention and anxiety disorders

PHYSICAL: concerning mechanical, orthopaedic, and mobility difficulties, as well as gross or fine motor skill limitations

MULTIPLE: concerning those children dealing with more than one category of exceptional need.

INTELLECTUAL: concerning intelligence and the student's ability (or student's level of ability) to acquire knowledge

COMMUNICATIVE: concerning learning difficulties, and speech and language impairments (both oral and written)

SENSORY: concerning the child's difficulties in sight and hearing (and in processing information gained through eyes and ears)



Each of these exceptionalities demands a different approach to teaching and requires a great amount of encouragement and support (both for your student and yourself). Knowing that, you may feel overwhelmed or feel under-qualified to teach your exceptional needs child at home. However, home can be the very best place for your child to be educated.

Contrary to some external pressure you may receive, you are fully and legally free to homeschool your exceptional needs child.

See <https://cche.ca/developing-in-the-dark-when-giftedness-hides-itself/>

YOUR CHILD CAN THRIVE AT HOME!

Benefits of Homeschooling Your Child with Exceptional Needs

Many well-meaning family and friends will suggest that a public or private school would be better suited to meet your child's special educational needs. While there are many great classes in the schools and many governmental services proposed, the reality is that funding and availability are limited.

There are **so** many benefits to homeschooling a child with exceptional needs and here are just a few:

AN INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAM & NEEDS-SPECIFIC TRAINING

Give your child the benefit of an individualized program and needs-specific training. You can teach them at the pace, level, and style that they need.



ONE-ON-ONE TEACHING TIME & REPETITION

Give your child the benefit of one-on-one teaching time and repetition.

You can provide face-to-face coaching, a slower pace, and a chance to cover the same material several times.

CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT & CONSISTENT STRUCTURE

Give your child the freedom to concentrate on their studies.

You free your child to devote their energy to learning instead of shutting out distractions.

EMOTIONAL STABILITY

Give your child a safe place.

You provide your child with the emotional stability they need. Especially, if your child is having a harder day getting over some of the blocks to learning, they can share their emotions and frustrations with you in the privacy of your home.

SOCIALIZATION

Ensure that your child develops the right kind of socialization.

You increase your child's social skills with a more controlled and wide-ranged demographic of adults, siblings, co-op teachers, or others who will come alongside them.

ARRAY OF POSSIBILITIES

Present them with an array of possibilities.

You see in your child the potential for great things and can encourage them to believe that there is more to them than their difficulties.

There is no better place than at home for your child to discover their strengths, fully develop, and to walk into a successful future.

At **HSLDA Canada** we understand that the prospect of homeschooling a child (or several children) with varying degrees of exceptional needs can be daunting. But, you are not alone. We are here to help you and to direct you to the right resources to get the support you need.

