Brief on Special Education Services

Objective: The primary aim of special education services is to provide early diagnosis so that remedial measures can be taken to prevent a mild impairment from becoming a serious or permanent one.

Programme: A full range of special education services is provided by the Education Department for pre-school and school children. The services comprise -

1. Screening, Referral and Placement Services
   - Recommendations for appropriate placement for children with special educational needs to Primary One Admission Unit
   - Recommendations for allocation of primary six pupils to practical schools or skills opportunity schools through Secondary School Places Allocation
   - Audiometric and eye-sight screening programmes
   - Programmes for identifying children with learning difficulties and speech problems
   - Intake and initial screening service for children seeking special help or assessment
   - Referral of children suspected of having sensory impairments or learning problems for further assessment and remedial help
   - Referral of children to government departments or non-governmental organizations for other services
   - Placement of children in special schools, practical schools, skills opportunity schools or special education classes according to their individual needs

2. Audiological Service
   - Audiological assessment and diagnosis
   - Prescription, fitting, issue, and maintenance of hearing aids
   - Production and issue of earmoulds
   - Peripatetic advisory service to hearing impaired children studying in ordinary schools and special schools other than schools for the hearing impaired
   - Advisory and training services for pre-school hearing impaired children
   - Referral to ear, nose and throat specialists for medical treatment
   - Parent guidance
   - Visiting audiological service to special schools for the hearing impaired and special education classes for the hearing impaired
   - Professional support for Integrated Kindergartens and Supportive Remedial Service for hearing impaired children
3. **Speech Therapy Service**
   - Assessment and diagnosis of speech and/or language impaired children
   - Direct work on speech and language problems in the form of individual/group therapy and parent counselling/training
   - Support to and supervision of speech therapy personnel in special schools
   - Peripatetic speech therapy service in ordinary schools and special schools without speech therapy personnel

4. **Psychological Service**
   - Psychological, intellectual, social and educational assessment for children with suspected learning and/or behavioural problems
   - Counselling and treatment for children with emotional problems, including behaviour treatment programmes and social skills training groups
   - Consultation and support to schools on crisis management
   - Counselling for parents individually or in groups
   - Short-term learning support group programmes for children, and advice for parents on systematic support methods
   - Professional support to guidance service in secondary schools
   - School-based psychological service for special schools, practical schools and skills opportunity schools
   - Regular visits to integrated kindergartens

5. **Resource Teaching Service**
   - Remedial support to children with learning difficulties and physical handicaps studying in ordinary schools
   - Adjustment programmes for children with behaviour/adjustment problems

6. **Advisory Service**
   - Professional advice to pre-school centres, special and ordinary schools, non-governmental organisations and government departments on the education of children with special educational needs
   - Operation of a Teaching Resources Room for special education teachers

7. **School-based Remedial Support Programme**
   - Professional advice to ordinary schools with a high intake of bottom 10% junior secondary students on helping these students to strengthen their interest in learning
   - Regular support and training to teachers deployed for the School-based Remedial Support Programme
8. **Other Services**

(a) **Examination Service**

- Assessment of special needs of handicapped candidates sitting for public examinations
- Recommendation for special arrangements for such candidates

(b) **Training Service**

- Orientation, introductory, refresher and professional courses/workshops for teachers
- Lectures and talks on special education requested by educational and other professional institutions
- Supervision of trainees in educational psychology, speech therapy and audiology, and co-ordination of field placement for social work students

The above services are generally rendered at three special education services centres located on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories respectively. All staff in the special education services centres are professionally qualified in their respective fields. Outreach and peripatetic programmes are also organized to meet children’s special needs as necessary.

**Referral Channel:** Schools, parents or professional workers who wish to apply for services may write to special education services centres or the Services Division of the Education Department.
Objective: To apply the latest computer technology to enhance the efficiency and quality of braille production.

Programme: Braille transcription services are operated to provide braille materials for visually impaired persons in Hong Kong. These materials include -

1. textbooks for visually impaired students;
2. books and materials required by visually impaired persons at work;
3. recreational and reference reading materials;
4. other materials such as examination papers, information pamphlets and documents;
5. embossing, thermoforming and book binding;
6. news summary of a local English newspaper and a local Chinese newspaper;
7. consultation papers, green papers and white papers of the Government; and
8. user’s manuals of public companies.

Staffing: Notional staffing for the Centre is as follows -

- Supervisor 1
- Senior Braille Production Officers 2
- Braille Production Officers 15
- Typists 2
- Assistant Clerical Officer 1
- Printing Staff 2
- Workman II 1

Referral Channel:

1. All organisations and schools should apply directly to the Supervisor of the Centralized Braille Production Centre of the Hong Kong Society for the Blind.
2. All individual requests should apply through the Communication Department of the Society or major organisations of/for visually impaired persons.