

## ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Simcoe County District School Board's Special Education Department is made up of a variety of professionals who provide a range of services to students to help them achieve to their potential.

**We're committed to working together with families to support our students.**



More information about Special Education is available at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) in the 'Programs' section. Parents can also speak to their classroom teacher, special education resource teacher, vice-principal or principal about the services available. Supports are accessed through a school staff referral system.



## SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD-OF-HEARING



*Your Future... Our Priority*

To speak to someone in the Special Education Department, please call

**705-734-6363**

[www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)  
Twitter: @SCDSB\_Schools  
Facebook: /SCDSB

For an accessible version of this information, contact [webadmin@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:webadmin@scdsb.on.ca).



Special Education

## WHAT IS A HEARING LOSS?

The Ministry of Education defines hearing loss as an “impairment characterized by deficits in language and speech development because of a diminished or non-existent auditory response to sound.” Students with a hearing loss may face challenges developing language and speech.



### The Hearing Resource Team

The Hearing Resource Team is a group of centrally-based special education staff that provides assistance to schools and students with hearing loss throughout the Simcoe County District School Board.

### How we work with students

- ✓ Students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing receive services based on individual needs. These needs determine the amount and type support provided. The support is outlined in the student's Individual Education Plan, which is developed in consultation with the family.
- ✓ Support can be provided in the following areas: sensory training, speech and language development, use of residual hearing, support for specific classroom curriculum and the use and maintenance of amplification equipment.
- ✓ The Hearing Resource Team supports the learning of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Suggestions are provided as needed to the school team on teaching strategies, and the effective management and use of hearing amplification. Supports are designed to help each student achieve to their potential.
- ✓ The Hearing Resource Team is available for consultation with students, parents, and staff. The team keeps parents informed of available learning opportunities either through the school board or in the community.

### How we support

The Hearing Resource Team is available to work with parents, students and staff to assist with and arrange for support, including:

- ✓ Advising parents on the professional diagnosis process
- ✓ Supporting parents and staff in obtaining and monitoring equipment
- ✓ Supporting school teams as they make programming decisions and implement teaching strategies that will benefit individual students
- ✓ Coordinating with community partners to arrange for county-wide events
- ✓ Communicating with external agencies such as Ernest C. Drury Provincial Schools Branch, Quota Club, and Deaf Access Simcoe.

The Hearing Resource Team also provides training throughout the year to help build awareness of the needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing students including:

- ✓ Workshops for individual teachers of students who have hearing loss
- ✓ Educating the classmates of students who have hearing loss
- ✓ Awareness sessions to educate teachers about deaf and hard-of-hearing learners, amplification, assistive technology and learning strategies to address the issues related to students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.