

The Guided Intervention Supported Transition (GIST) Classroom supports children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The model follows best practice intervention guidelines for supporting students with ASD by:

- *Providing evidence-based intervention techniques in an intensive, modified classroom setting focusing on academic readiness to learn, literacy/ numeracy goals and life skills. Depending on individual needs, students will also be working on the appropriate curriculum.*
- *Building capacity throughout the division by training and providing professional development for community school staff.*
- *Transitions back to community schools are successful using this model.*

WHAT IS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND HOW DO CHILDREN WITH ASD LEARN?

ASD is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by skill deficits in the areas of social communication and interaction and restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour. It is a well-known, research-based fact that most children with ASD do not learn through observation alone and require intensive intervention and practice to learn the same skills that “typical” learners acquire naturally.

When a student arrives at GIST, programming will begin in a classroom where skills are assessed by a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst and a plan is created to develop the student’s skill deficits. The GIST team works on developing the student’s skills and readiness to learn.

Once these skills are mastered, the student moves to a transitional classroom within CFDL which emulates a community school classroom environment.

WHAT IS GIST?

GIST is a short term transitional program for children identified with ASD. GIST provides skills based assessment and short-term intensive behavioural intervention to students who may not yet have all of the skills required to succeed in their classroom. Each child is accompanied to the GIST classroom by their home school support staff who learns how to identify, measure, and implement various strategies to teach new skills. Professional learning is also offered to the community school staff on a regular basis.

LOCATION

Centre for Diverse Learning at St. Gabriel School
5540 106 Avenue NW

Placement at GIST is based on:

- A referral made in consultation with the community school, parents, Inclusive Programming Consultant, Specialists and CFDL staff.
- Priority may be given based on severity of skill deficits, other supports available and additional factors.
- Transportation may be provided.

