

Educational Policies Related to Language Disorders in Newfoundland



Inclusive educational framework: Newfoundland recognizes that every child has a right to receive appropriate and quality programming with a continuum of supports and services available as needed.

Categories of exceptionalities: Newfoundland defines 14 categories of exceptionalities, including brain injury; cognitive disorder; developmental delay; emotional, mental health, and/or behavioural disorder; gifted and talented; hearing loss; health disorder; learning disability; pervasive developmental disorder; physical disability; and, vision loss.

Students require a medical diagnosis to access special education services.

Recognizing speech and language disorders: Newfoundland also recognizes speech and/or language disorders as two of its exceptionalities.



A speech disorder exceptionality is defined as mild to severe issues with articulation, voice, and fluency (i.e., stuttering).

A language disorder exceptionality requires an issue in one or more areas, including receptive language, expressive language, pragmatics (social), language processing, and phonological awareness.

Students diagnosed with a speech and/or language disorder may require a range of school-based services depending on their level of need and functioning.

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a persistent language difficulty that interferes with a child's learning, understanding, and communication and is not explained by other conditions (e.g., hearing loss, autism) or extenuating circumstances (e.g., lack of exposure to language).

DLD affects a child's learning, understanding, and communication; however, their language difficulties will differ from child to child.

No provinces or territories use the term DLD (QC uses a synonym)

DLD affects about 2 children in every classroom

LEARN MORE AT: dldandme.org & radld.org