



GENEVA
CENTRE
FOR
AUTISM

Back-to-School Resource Guide 2026



Back-to-school season can bring excitement, uncertainty, and big transitions. This guide offers practical tools and resources for:

- Children and teens returning to school
- Adults entering college, university, or training programs
- Families and caregivers managing new routines, services, and supports

The information in this guide is provided for reference only. It is not intended as a recommendation or endorsement of any of the organizations listed or as a comprehensive list of all resources available.



Help your child succeed at school by understanding IEPs, engaging with staff, and advocating effectively.

What's an IEP? An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is a plan that describes special education programs and outlines a student's strengths and areas for growth. It also acknowledges any accommodation and or modifications to support a learner at school.

[TDSB Guide to Individual Education Plans \(IEPs\)](#)

Advocacy Tips:

Self-advocacy means to understand your rights, to stand up for what is best for you, and to know that you deserve to have your needs met.

Self-advocacy is important to your overall wellbeing.

What does advocacy mean to you:

- Knowing what you want
- Knowing what you do well (strengths)
- Knowing what you have difficulty doing (areas for growth)
- Knowing your legal rights
- Knowing what you need
- Being able to tell the appropriate person what you need

Resources:

[TDSB Parent Engagement Sessions](#)

[Parents of Black Children](#)

[Negotiating the Maze – Advocacy in Schools \(Autism Ontario\)](#)

[Educational Consulting – The Red Oak Centre](#)

[Parent Consultation and Student Coaching - Possibilities Clinic](#)

[Teaching Self-Advocacy Across the Lifespan](#)



Academic & Learning Support

Strategies and support to help students stay organized and confident with their schoolwork.

Study & Organization Tips:

- Break the day into [manageable chunks](#)
- Create a daily “To Do” list or activity schedule
- Ask a trusted person such as a teacher, educational assistant, parent, caregiver, or peer mentor to help with accountability.
- Use a [reward system](#) for task completion
- Stay organized with calendars, visuals, or checklists

Tutoring & Learning Support Services:

[TutorBright](#)

[Shining Through Centre](#)

[Ruth Rumack’s Learning Space](#)

[Cori Stern & Associates](#)

[Bright Start Academy](#)

[Kid Mechanix](#)



[Click here](#) to download more free resources or scan the QR code



Support for new classrooms, new schools, or transitions like graduation or entering adulthood.

Children:

[Transition planning | Special education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12 –Policy and resource guide | ontario.ca](#)

[Surrey Place – About My School](#)

[How can I help my child with transitions? – Sickkids CMH](#)

[Kerry's Place – Importance of Routines and Planning Transitions](#)

Teen/Adults:

[Partners for Planning – Transitioning to High School Action Guide](#)

[Partners for Planning – Transitioning to Highschool Toolkit - Overview](#)

[Partners for Planning – Planning for a Good Life Beyond Graduation Toolkit - Overview](#)

[While You Wait – Surrey Place](#)

[Partners for Planning – How to Apply for the Ontario Disability Support Program](#)

[Partners for Planning – Developmental Services Ontario](#)

[Adult High Schools – TDSB](#)

[Planning for Adulthood Through ABA and Effective Education - Sonderly](#)



What is Respite?

Respite provides short-term care and supervision for a child, youth, or adult, giving their primary caregivers a temporary break. It can take place during weeknights, weekends, March Break camps, Winter Break Camps, Summer Camps, or other planned times throughout the year. The goal is to support caregiver well-being while offering meaningful, engaging activities for the individual receiving care.

Funding You Can use to Access Respite:

- SSAH – [SpecialServicesatHome | ontario.ca](https://www.specialservicesathome.on.ca)
- ACSD – [Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Program \(ACSD\) | ontario.ca](https://www.acsd.on.ca)
- Passport Funding – [Passport Program | Homepage](https://www.passportprogram.ca)



[Click here](#) for our Intake Department for information about respite programs at Geneva Centre and in your community or scan the QR code.



[Click here](#) to explore our Respite Program or scan the QR code.



Support Groups

Groups and sessions for caregivers, siblings, and families to connect, learn, and get support.

Geneva Centre:

[GCAConnects](#): Free interactive space for caregivers and neurodiverse individuals to engage, share resources and join in facilitated conversations on various topics.

To learn more or to register for upcoming sessions,
[explore our Connect page](#) or [sign up for our newsletter](#).

In the Community:

Check out the [Ontario Autism Program Foundational Family Services](#)

[Autism Ontario Parent Support Groups](#)

[Extend-A-Family Support Groups](#)

[Woodgreen Parent Outreach Program](#)

[Click here](#) to explore
our Connect page or
scan the QR code.



Post-Secondary School Supports

Resources for autistic adults entering college, university, or training programs.

Tips:

- Connect with campus accessibility services early
- Build a support network through peer groups
- Use tools like calendar apps and reminders to stay organized
- Explore assistive tech for writing, note-taking, or organizing

Resources & Tools:

[Transition Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities](#)

[Mind the Gap – Supporting Neurodiverse Learners](#)

[Goblin Tools – Executive Function Support](#)

Programs & Courses:

[George Brown Vocational Program](#)

[Community Integration through Co-operative Education \(CICE\)](#)

[March of Dimes SkillingUp](#)

[Brighton Launch Program](#)

Accessibility Services & ASD Groups (GTA):



Autism Educational
Support Club



Academic
Accommodation
Support



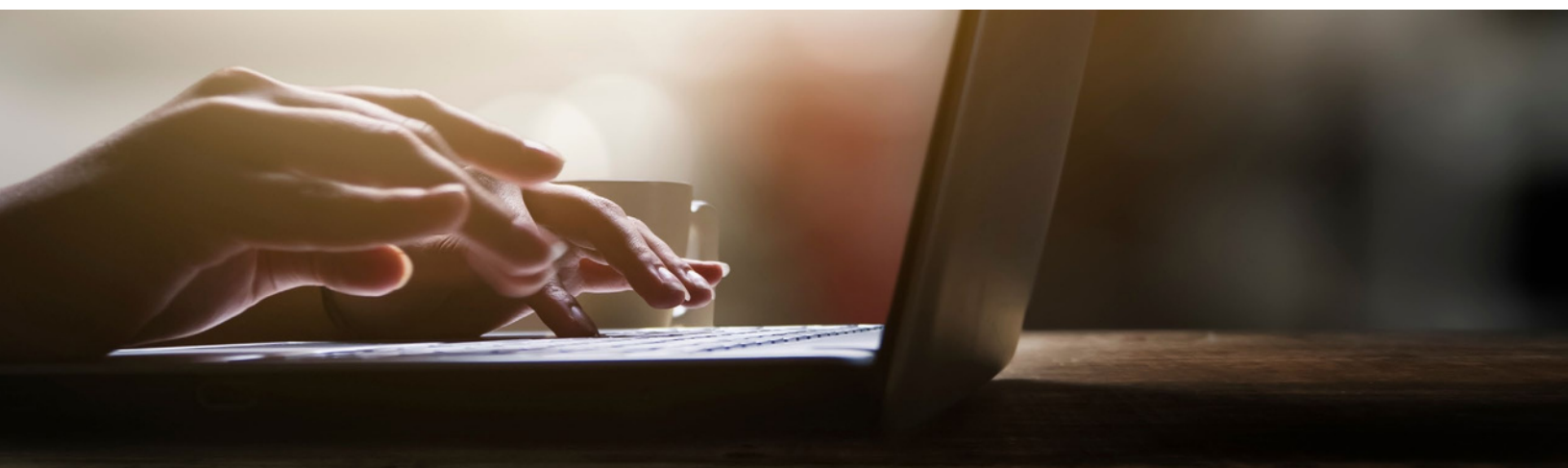
Student
Accessibility
Services



Accessible
Learning Services



Accessible
Learning Services



Supports for navigating public transit or arranging travel accommodations.

Tips for navigating public transit:

- Plan your route in advance
- Check schedules
- Sensory tools – (Example: noise cancelling headphones, fidget tools)
- Communication aids

TTC & Travel Training Resources:

[TTC Wheel-Trans](#)

[Support Person Assistance Card](#)

[TTC Travel Training Program Brochure \(PDF\)](#)

[TTC MagnusCards](#)

Transportation Companies:

[Beaver Transportation Services Ltd](#)

[Dignity Transportation](#)

[The BTS Network](#)

[Wheelchair Accessible Transit](#)

[KidskoolTrans](#)



Visual & Organizational Tools

Helpful for routines, communication, time management, and transitions.

Visual Resources:

[Geneva Centre Visuals](#)

[ConnectABILITY Visual Tools](#)

Apps & Tools:

[Brili Routines](#)

[Choiceworks App \(BeeVisual\)](#)

[Time Timer](#)

[myHomework Student Planner](#)



Need Support Navigating Autism Services?

Whether you're looking for guidance, resources, or personalized support, we're here to help.

Visit our Get Help page to connect with our Intake team and explore the services available to you.



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