

Explicit planning is provided to facilitate generalization of skills in all environments. The PAST Program teacher and a support staff make scheduled visits to the home school to support the classroom teacher, provide peer training and to monitor the generalization of targeted skills. Weekly checklists are provided to the parent and classroom teacher to record student's performance of targeted skills. Regular communication with parents is encouraged.

In keeping with the mission of the TCDSB time will be spent each session helping the student develop a personal relationship with God.



TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD

For more information, contact:
Program to Assist
Social Thinking

416-222-8282 Ext. 2799



Revised June 2020

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80 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto, ON
www.tcdsb.org



PAST
Program to Assist
Social Thinking

Toronto Catholic District
School Board



**Autism Programs and Services
Department**



“Being able to understand the perspective of others and understand how they perceive you, is critical in establishing successful interpersonal relationships...if our students can cognitively understand relationships in which they participate, it will be easier for them to make sense of the related social skills that lead to further interpersonal...success.”

MICHELLE WINNER 2007

The Program to Assist Social thinking is a cognitive-behavioural approach that provides intensive support to students **with Asperger's or high functioning** Autism or Autism level 1. These students do not automatically assimilate the unwritten rules of social interaction. Students must be directly taught how to have successful interactions at home, at school and in their community.



Admission Criteria

Students in grade 3-6 with a diagnosis of **Asperger's or high functioning** Autism or Autism level 1 are eligible to be nominated for the program. Students are capable of functioning at grade level. Students must currently be experiencing difficulty with social skills and/or behaviour.

The Autism Support Teacher for the school refers eligible candidates to the PAST Program.

Location

Currently the PAST Program is located at:

D'Arcy McGee Catholic School
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School
St. Florence Catholic School
St. Louis Catholic School
St. Martha Catholic School
St. Victor Catholic School

Organization

The PAST Program runs from October to the end of May. Students attend the PAST Program one full day each week. Six students attend the program each day. Bussing is provided. Students are reviewed each year to determine if they should continue in the program.

A teacher and a support staff deliver the PAST Program. Staff from the home school who work with the student are invited to visit the program.

Referrals

Please contact the Autism Department at 416-222-8282 ext. 2799

Program Description

The PAST Program focuses on the enhancement of the perspective taking abilities of students. Skill areas addressed within this context are the understanding emotions of self and others, communication, cooperative play, development of relationships, understanding of diagnosis and self advocacy.

Strategies used in the PAST Program include improvisation, role-play, video modelling, Comic Book Conversations, Social Stories, instructional videos, self-regulation scales, peer support and problem solving activities.

