

The LINKS FASD Program is designed for students who have a diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. It is a low enrollment academic classroom of eight students, one teacher and one educational assistant. It is a very structured classroom that has limited environmental stimuli. The students are in grades 4-6.

The goal of the program is to provide specialized teaching strategies and adaptations to the classroom environment, subject areas and assessment techniques. Students will also receive support in developing appropriate social, self-management and problem-solving skills. Our program emphasizes reading, writing, mathematics, social skills, ability awareness and personal safety. Themes are also presented that incorporate Science, Social Studies and Health topics.

The Ability Awareness Program is designed to help students with FASD learn about their brain and better understand the strengths and challenges they possess. It is a strength based approach and will assist students in identifying areas of the brain along with learning strategies to assist them in developing strengths in these areas. The program is based on the brain domains identified in the Canadian Diagnostic Guidelines for FASD.

An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is developed for each student and shared with guardians twice yearly. The plan outlines the student's current level of performance and specific goals for new learning. The curriculum is adapted to meet the needs of each individual student.

## Language Arts

Our Language Arts Program will consist of a variety of reading and writing activities. The reading materials will be individualized at their own reading levels. Through small group reading, guided reading and 1:1

reading, students will learn a variety of strategies to assist with decoding unknown words, strengthening comprehension skills along with making personal connections and inferences from what is being read. Students will write in their personal journals twice a week and will also learn various conventions and styles of writing by producing creative writing pieces using topics of interest. The Words Their Way Spelling Program will be used as part of our Language Arts Program, which is a hands-on individualized spelling program to increase students reading and writing abilities.





## **Mathematics**

Our Mathematics Program will consist of developing a greater understanding of number concepts and place value along with problem solving skills. The Smart Board will be used a great deal during our Math Program this year. Students will get the opportunity to learn a variety of math concepts and skills with the use of this educational tool that every student loves to use. Students will also utilize the Prodigy Math game on their computers which is designed to reinforce and practice skills already learned.

## **Communication**

Students will be given communication books this year which will go back and forth from school to home daily. It is meant to be a record of your child's school day (i.e. learning, behaviour, special events etc.) encouraging your child to reflect on his/her school day learning, feelings and behaviour. It is also designed to help your child remember his/her school day so that it can be discussed at home. There is also an "at home" component on the back side of the page for your child to reflect and share what was done at home after school. I will write a message each day about an aspect of your child's school day, important information, any upcoming events, due dates etc. You are encouraged to share any information in this book that you feel would support your child at school.

You may also contact me by phoning the school or via e-mail at <u>darmenti@wsd1.org</u>, with any comments, questions or concerns you may have.