



GUIDELINES CONCERNING SCREENING PROCEDURES IN MAIN STREAM SCHOOLS

The aim of screening is early identification of problem areas that affect a child's behaviour and ability to learn successfully. Screening should be done by any professional discipline with resultant referral to the appropriate professional person who could deal or do an in depth evaluation of the primary problem areas. (Eg, Psychologist, Occupational therapist, Speech therapies)

The following aspects should be considered to finalise the guidelines:

No standardised tests used during in depth evaluations should be used during the screening process.

Screening procedures may be developed on a multidisciplinary basis.

Screening procedures should be identified and approved by all disciplines involved. Examples could be the Gardiner Social (Developmental) Maturity Scale, The one compiled by the West Rand Multidisciplinary Group, School Readiness Battery compiled by HSRC or Susan le Roux, UP, COPS etc.

If problems are identified, the client should be referred to the appropriate discipline with a list of names of all of those practising in the area for the client to choose from.

Before the service is rendered, a letter explaining the procedure should be sent to the client involved and the client should request the screening procedure and always be prepared to pay for it. The letter should include the aim of the procedure, whether the therapist is doing it in a private capacity or as an employee of the specific school, the costs involved which cannot be claimed from a medical aid. (The reason being that there is no composite fee that covers more than one discipline). Alternatively the school should pay for the service rendered on a contract basis, screening the children with the parents consent, or screening should be done free of charge or teachers should be enabled to identify children for referral to the appropriate discipline (especially those teachers in nursery schools and grade 1 - 3).

The parent or caregiver should request the screening procedure by means of consent in a letter for the child/patient to undergo the screening procedure. A written report back should be prepared for every child screened.

The procedure for making your services known in an area (advertise your service), as compiled by HPCSA should be followed and should not be seen as touting.

The costs involved in screening should be agreed upon by the multidisciplinary team within an area and should be approved by all concerned.

Screening should preferably be undertaken if there is an affordable professional service within the area.

An exception would be when when screening is required to develop a service or create a post.

Cooperation among all therapists and disciplines within an area is strongly recommended.

Screening should be to enable the teacher or parent to identify possible problems for referral to the appropriate discipline for confirmation and handling the problem or treatment.