

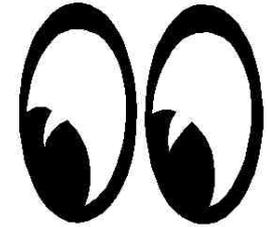
# Protocol for Early Childhood Transition to School for Children with Additional Support Needs

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# Goal for today



- Look at how we can help families support their children with additional support needs transition to school by beginning to plan one year in advance of a child's start at school.

# Purpose of this protocol

- **WHO?** Those who support the complex and interconnected needs of children and youth.
- **WHAT?** Facilitate a coordinated approach by families and staff of departments and related agencies.

# Purpose of this protocol

- **WHY?** Through collaborations, we can reduce barriers for children and families who require the integrated and timely services of more than one service provider.
- **WHEN?** Beginning one year prior to starting Kindergarten.

# Development Process

- Formed committee
  - HCMO and Education and Training co-leads
- Departments/branches represented:
  - Healthy Child Manitoba
  - Education and Training
  - Families
    - Early Learning and Child Care Program
    - Children's DisABILITY Services

# Development Process



# Development Process

- Internal Consultations
- External Consultations



# Changes / Updates



- Clearly-described process with recommended timeline
- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Shift to strength based language

# What's in the Protocol?



# Guiding Principles

## ➤ Philosophy of Inclusion

- By working together, we strengthen our capacity to provide the foundation for a richer future for all of us.

# Guiding Principles

## ➤ Family-centered Practice

- The first step to successful family-centred practice is developing an understanding of the caregivers' identity and their hopes and dreams for their child.

# Guiding Principles

## ➤ Strengths-based

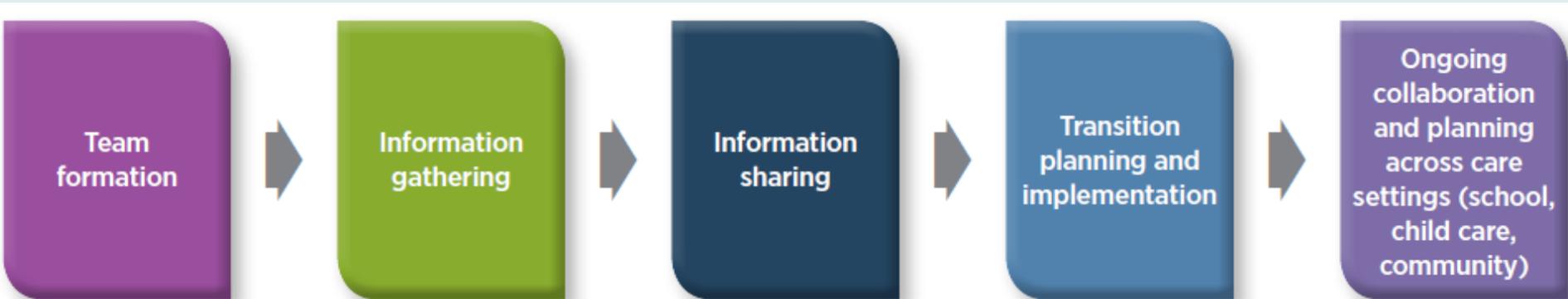
- A commitment by transition team members to a positively focused, strengths-based approach is a critical factor in developing a balanced, and ultimately more successful, transition plan.

# Guiding Principles

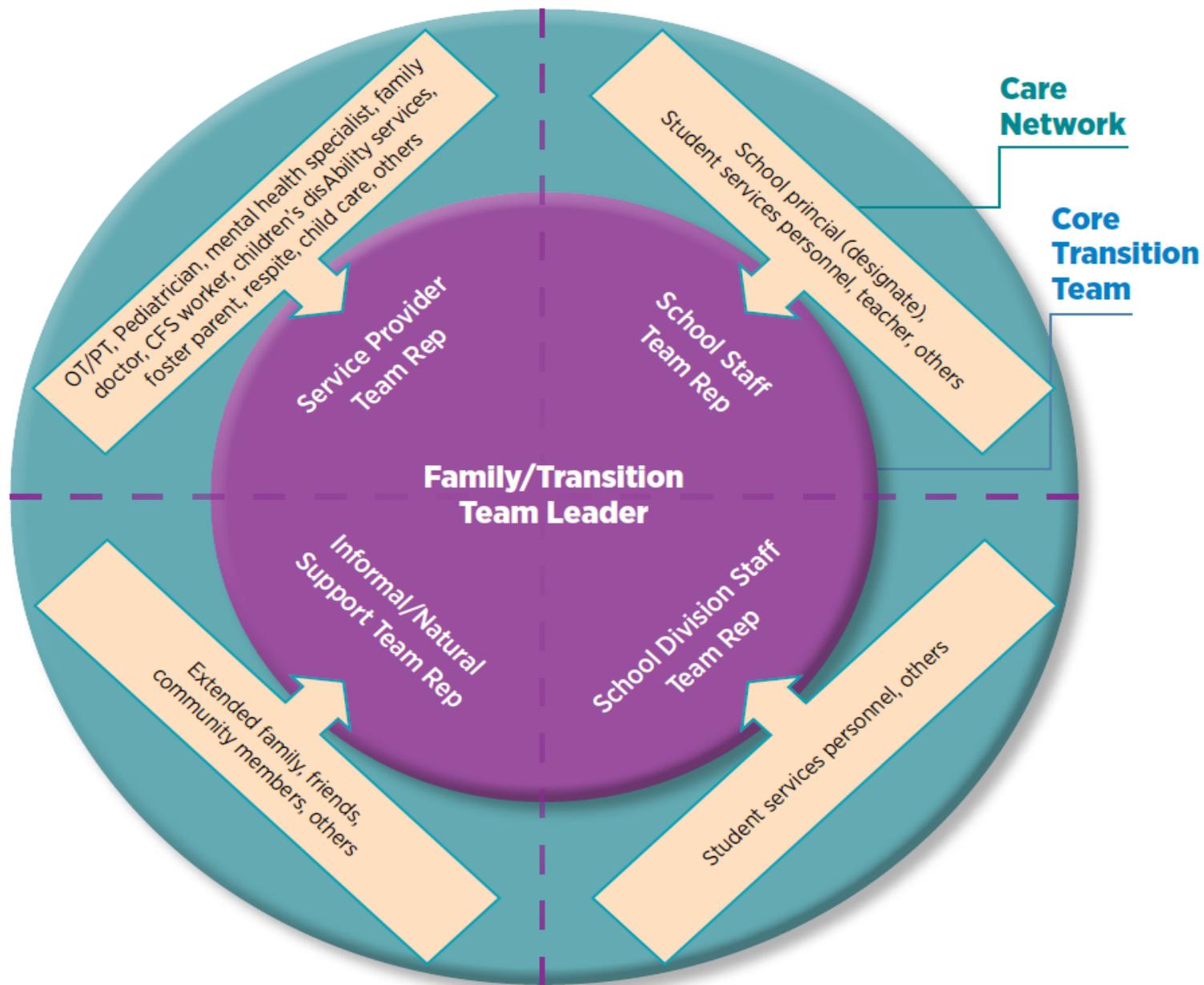
## ➤ Child-specific

- To achieve a successful transition, plans should be child-specific, flexible and adapt to emerging strengths and needs of the child and family.

# Overview of Transition Planning Process



**Figure 1 | Transition Planning Team Structure**



# Leadership & Family Voice

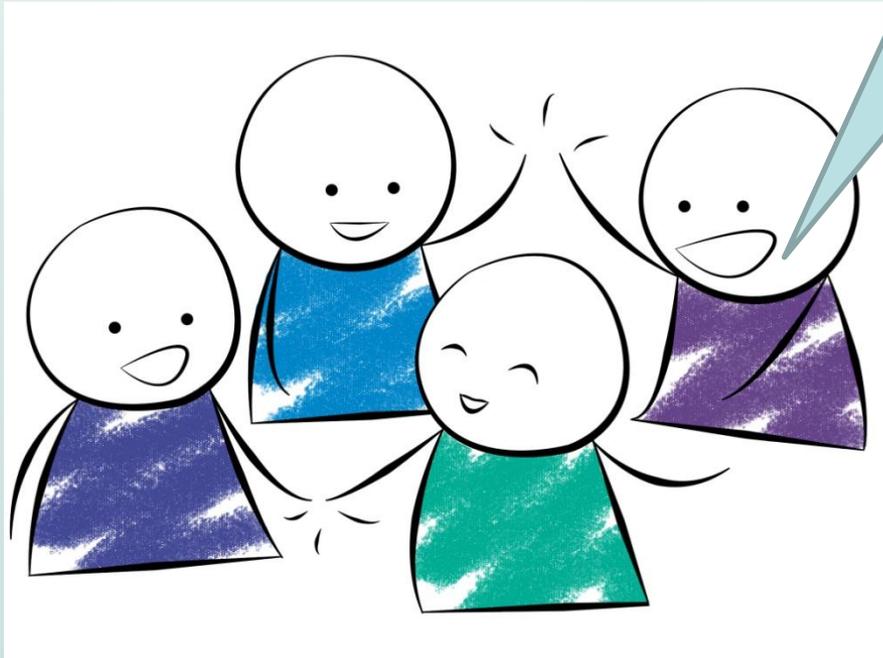
- the family either acts as the transition team leader...
- or chooses a trusted delegate to lead or co-lead the process.



# Transition Planning Template (questionnaire)

- The child and family
- Play
- Cognitive/Concepts
- Communication
- Self-help
- Mobility
- Sensory
- Sensory processing abilities
- Social/emotional/behavioural
- Health/safety & well-being
- Health care needs

# Proactive, Positive, Strength-based



**Create a complete profile  
of the child**



# Big Idea

## Collaboration

- essential for an effective plan to transition children with additional support needs into school

# Extras

- Appendices
  - A. How to Create a Transition Social Story
  - B. Transition Planning Template (questionnaire)
  - C. Checklist of Tasks

## On line

- Case Studies/  
Vignettes
- Example of a  
Transition Social  
Story

Timeline Poster

**Service Coordination Consent for Sharing and Releasing  
Personal Information and/or Personal Health Information**

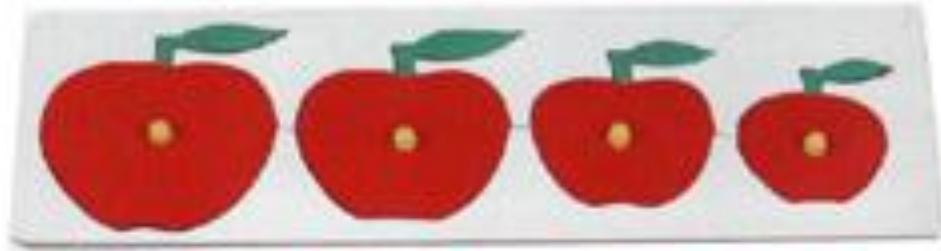
# The Case Study



# Mason goes to Kindergarten



from  
Creative  
Commons



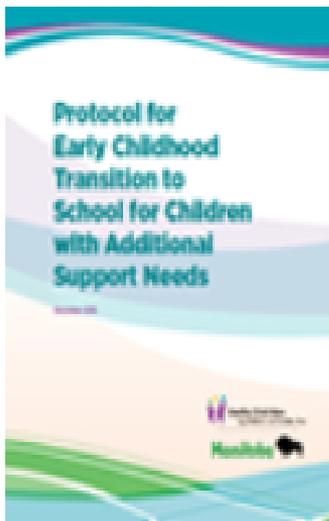
## As a team...

1. Select a recorder and a reporter.
2. Review the cards on your table with their snippets of the story.
3. Using the timeline poster as your guide, try to place the story cards in sequence.
4. Explain your thinking, note your questions.
5. Work towards consensus.
6. Be ready to share your process and reasons with the larger group.

# Debrief

- What surprised you most?
- What confirmed your own approach?
- What changes might you want to make?
- What barriers do you anticipate?
- What else do you still wonder about?





# Thank you!

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/publications/index.html>

Protocol for Early Childhood Transition to School for Children with Additional Support Needs | December 2015  
Poster | Kindergarten Story | Vignette 1 | Vignette 2

In Fall 2016, regional workshops introducing the Protocol to multidisciplinary service providers were delivered in Brandon, Carman, Dauphin, The Pas, Thompson, and Winnipeg. The Presentation is a revised version of the presentation given at these workshops. It is available for use in your community | [View Presentation \(Powerpoint\)](#) | [Powerpoint Slides \(PDF\)](#)