

Social Welfare Department Subvented School-based Model of Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (Trial Version)

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides support for pre-school children with special needs through the subvented Integrated Programme in Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centre (IP) and the On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (OPRS). The School-based Model of Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (School-based Model) integrates the respective strengths of IP and OPRS to establish a more systematic collaboration platform within kindergartens (KGs) and kindergarten-cum-child care centres (KG-cum-CCCs), thereby providing children with coherent and comprehensive services. In schools where only OPRS is in place, the OPRS teams will work closely with the schools to ensure that children receive holistic support. SWD is progressively implementing the School-based Model in KGs and KG-cum-CCCs on a trial basis to enhance support for pre-school children with special needs.

Main objectives of the new model

① Earlier Identification and Support

-  Early identification of children with special needs through classroom observations
-  Exemption from the central waitlisting procedures to shorten waiting time
-  Facilitation of earlier access to appropriate support

② Provision of Appropriate Support Based on the Special Needs of Each Child

-  Establishment of a multi-disciplinary collaboration platform within the school
-  Development of service packages tailored to the developmental needs of each child with special needs at different stages, for example:
 - School-based support (classroom support/group activities/curriculum adaptation)
 - Specialist training (occupational therapy/physiotherapy/speech therapy/centre-based training services)
 - Home-based training (recommendations for parents on home practice)
-  Formulation of an Individual Training Plan for each child with regular review
-  Flexible adjustment of the service package in accordance with the child's developmental needs

③ More Effective Use of Professional Resources

-  Integration of the professional strengths of schools, OPRS and IP to achieve synergy
-  Enhancement of the quality of support for children with special needs

Implementation Timetable

From April 2026: First Phase of the Trial Run

From September 2026: Second Phase of the Trial Run

From February to August 2027: Service Transition Period

September 2027: Full implementation in all KGs and KG-cum-CCCs with IP and/or OPRS

Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services Branch

Social Welfare Department

August 2026

Period of Application: April 2026 onwards (Trial Period)