**Transcript: Riverview – Our policy and approach to supporting learners with disabilities.**

**Deputy Head Teacher – Riverview School**

As a school we have made a lot of successes in inclusive education. From our experiences what we have learnt is that children with disabilities are just like any other human beings; they have desires, they have talents, they have skills. They just need a little support from the people around them. What we have learnt as well is that everybody has something to give to the world. These children actually have proved that they can do wonders provided they are given the opportunity to have access to education, provided they are integrated in school, in society and in the communities where they’re coming from. As a school we have come up with a policy that says we are not going to leave any child behind; all children are welcome at our school. We are enrolling all children regardless of their disability. Why? It’s because we understand how we can handle these children; we understand how we can make their education easier even when they are very much different from others.

Besides that, we are encouraging our children to be present at school, to participate in activities every day they are in school, as well as to achieve. However, the achievement we are talking about my not be what other people think. Learners with disabilities may not attend university education, they may not pass the grade 9 exams, they may not go to grade 8, but what matters the most is that at least they learn skills that enable them to become independent in life. For those that cannot maybe learn to read and write, we ensure that we teach activities for daily living to them so that they become independent persons in society. No need to depend on anyone for anything, they can wash for themselves, they can cook for themselves. Once they learn that, to us we feel we have scored a miracle in that particular child.