

Parent Planning Guide for IEP Meetings

How can you prepare for the IEP Conference?

- ⇒ Become familiar with your child's learning and behavioral characteristics. Observe your child in different situations at home (for example, interacting with peers, completing homework, following directions, and playing games). Consider arranging a time with the classroom teacher to visit school prior to the meeting to observe your child in class. Review samples of school and homework. Look for strengths and weaknesses.
- ⇒ Review written information. Go over evaluation reports, progress reports, teacher correspondence, jot down information relevant to your child's present educational status, and select those you would like to discuss at the meeting.
- ⇒ Talk with your child. Ask questions that will help you assist in the development of an educational program appropriate to his/her needs. Probe gently to find out such information as subjects and activities your child likes or dislikes in school, perceptions of strengths and weaknesses, conditions under which he/she learns best.
- ⇒ Become familiar with the IEP.
- ⇒ Consider what you would like included in the IEP. Write down your ideas about your child's strengths, specific skills and goals.
- ⇒ Write a list of questions you may have. Bring them to the meeting.
- ⇒ Think about whether or not you would like to bring another person with you to the meeting.
- ⇒ Think about whether your child should attend the meeting, or some part it.