



Parent Involvement in the IEP Process

BEFORE the IEP Meeting

- Gather and review information.**
 - Look at samples of your child's work.
 - Read over any home/school communications.
 - Review your child's progress reports.
 - Review your child's current IEP. What goals did your child reach? Which goals haven't been met? What supports has your child been receiving? Which supports have been effective in supporting your child's learning?

- Talk to your child about school.**
 - What subjects and activities does your child like or dislike?
 - What seems to motivate and interest your child?
 - Ask your child about his/her strengths and challenges.

- Ask to visit your child's classroom(s).**
 - Contact your child's teacher(s) after your visit to ask questions.
 - If your child will be transitioning to a new school, visit the new building.

- Make a list of your child's strengths and needs.**
 - Consider academic, behavioral, communication, social, self-help skills, etc.
 - Have family members and friends contribute to your list.

- Make a list of goals you would like your child to achieve during the upcoming school year.**
 - What concerns and hopes do you have for your child now and in the future?
 - Share your expectations and dreams for child.

- Be prepared to advocate for your child.**
 - Make a list of questions you have for members of the IEP team.
 - Organize your thoughts and materials.
 - Consider having someone with you for support.
 - Maintain a positive attitude. Assume that each team member has your child's best interest in mind.



DURING the IEP Meeting

- Help to keep the discussion positive, child-focused and collaborative.
 - Be sure everyone is in agreement as to the purpose of the meeting.
 - Start off with a positive statement.
 - Ask questions to clarify information.
 - Express concerns and feelings in a nonjudgmental way.
 - State your requests in an assertive rather than aggressive manner.
 - Work collaboratively to explore solutions for any identified problems.
 - Ask for key points to be summarized periodically and check for agreement.
 - Establish ways to maintain contact throughout the year.

AFTER the IEP Meeting

- Keep involved and maintain contact throughout the year.
 - Keep a copy of your child's IEP on hand to review periodically and monitor progress.
 - Highlight and share your child's accomplishments.
 - Reach out if there is an issue or concern.
 - Look for opportunities to express appreciation.
 - Inform IEP team members of any significant changes at home or school.