

Use Questions to Find Answers:

A guide for parents of children receiving special education services

As the parent of a child with disabilities, you are a valuable member of your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. You have knowledge about your child from which school personnel and other IEP team members will benefit. Likewise, they have information and professional perspectives that will help you understand your child's educational program. The following questions can help you gather information from others and be an effective member of the IEP team.

- Would you tell me more about _____?
- That term (or acronym) is unfamiliar to me. Would you please explain it?
- Would you please explain _____?
- How will I know this plan is working?
- Would you please rephrase that so I'm sure I understand?
- What will the school propose to do about _____?
- Could you please share the data to support _____?
- Could you give me more specifics about _____?
- I think I heard you say _____. Is that correct?
- How was the progress you mentioned measured?
- That is interesting. Could you tell me more about it so I'm sure I understand your view?
- How long will we need to use this intervention to determine if it's successful?
- Could we look at other methods?
- Could you share the research on the effectiveness of that method?
- What are some other options?
- What assistive technology might benefit my child?
- Could you give a few examples of _____?
- What time of day does _____ usually happen?
- When can I expect to receive that report?
- How much time has been scheduled for this meeting?
- What was the reason or rationale for _____?
- I've noticed _____ at home. What do you see at school?
- What does "disruptive" (or another nonspecific, general term) mean?
- You say the policy is _____. May I please have a copy of that policy to read?
- Do we all agree that _____ (summary statement)?