

PARENTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE IEP PROCESS

You have an important role in planning your child's education. As a parent, you are a member of a team responsible for planning your child's Individualized Education Program or IEP.

What is an IEP?

An IEP is a plan written by a team of people who may include parents (and/or interested people), teacher(s), principal, LEA staff personnel and school nurses; it states what will be provided for your child at school. The plan will include:

- What your child has accomplished to date in school
- What your child will accomplish by the end of the year
- Services that will be provided for your child
- Who will work with your child
- Where and when services will be provided
- A plan to evaluate your child's progress

The following are suggestions to be considered in participating at the IEP meeting:

1. *Share relevant information about your child* by contributing what you know about your child's skills, interests, weaknesses, and most importantly, strengths.
2. *Take note of what regular school activities are included in the program for your child.* Don't forget non-academic areas such as lunch and recess and other areas such as art, music, and physical education.
3. *Refer to your list of questions* and any notes you have brought to see that all issues you have felt important have been discussed. Ask for further discussions whenever necessary.
4. *If at any point you do not understand something,* ask that it be restated. Do not hesitate to ask for clarification of any detail.