

# Quick Guide To Preparing for Your Child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meeting

## Parent Preparation

- Keep a notebook, or some type of organization system, to help track your notes, questions, your child's work samples, progress notes, evaluations, previous IEPs, and other information relevant to your child's disability and educational needs.
- Ask someone you trust to attend a meeting with you if you feel you need support.
- Read *Whose IDEA is This* and take a copy to the meeting with you for reference.
- Share with the school your goals, priorities and future hopes for your child.
- Share things that work with your child at home that can be implemented at school.
- Share with the school relevant information from outside sources, such as therapists, doctors, etc.
- If your child will attend the meeting, prepare him/her for what the meeting is about, who may be there, and what will be discussed.
- In advance of the meeting:
  - ~ Share safety concerns, medical issues, medication lists, motivators, needs, strengths/challenges, situations that are difficult for your child, and written statements from medical professionals
  - ~ Request a DRAFT copy of the IEP
- Reschedule the meeting if you cannot attend; ask to meet again before signing the IEP if you need additional time to review information that was presented to you at the IEP meeting.

## Questions to Consider with the Team

- What skills does my child need to perform academically, socially, or functionally?
- What skills does/doesn't my child demonstrate in the classroom compared with typical peers?
- Have you considered my child's day to day physical needs and how you will ensure his/her safety in an emergency?
- What are the prioritized needs of my child and are they addressed through the IEP goals? (communication, technology, mobility, etc.)
- What data does the team have (classroom skills, tests, etc.) that shows how my child is doing with regard to achieving goals, instructional objectives and skill development?
- Is my child making progress toward achieving the IEP goals and making progress in the general education curriculum? How will that be communicated to me?
- Would my child benefit from participating in the general education classroom all or part of the day? What would that look like?