

IEP Survival Guide

SPECIAL LEARNING CENTER



BACKGROUND

An IEP is an "Individualized Education Program" that is created to meet a child's needs in the school setting. Each parent/guardian is an important member of the IEP team. This handout will help you be prepared to meet your child's needs. You will also find other helpful pieces of information and resources that could benefit your child and you during the IEP process.

RECORDING YOUR IEP MEETING

Missouri is a one-party consent recording state, meaning that only one person in a conversation needs to know that the conversation is being recorded for it to be legal to record. Legislation was amended onto HB432 and signed into law on July 14, 2021. To Learn More visit: <https://www.moempower.com/recording-policy>.

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT THE MEETING

1. How can I contact you? (Take down contact information from everyone at the meeting)
2. When is a good time to have an informal discussion about my child's progress?
3. What do you see as my child's strengths? How can I support them?
4. What can I do at home to support the IEP goals?
5. How will my child's progress be communicated with me?

DEVELOPING IEP GOALS

IEP Goals for your child should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and should include a Timeline (SMART Goal)

- Specific: what specific thing are you looking for
- Measurable: what will you use to measure success?
- Attainable: is the goal realistic for the child?
- Relevant: is the goal relevant to your child?
- Timeline: when should the goal be achieved?

PARENT CONCERNS

What do you put in your "Parent Concerns" on the IEP:

1. Areas of need that the school identified that you agree with.
2. Areas of need not identified, that you wish to include or ask for an evaluation
3. Strategies that are working
4. Strategies that are not working
5. Behavior concerns
6. Food/medical concerns

DON'T WORRY!

Though IEP documents and meetings can feel intimidating, know that you are an important part of the team and your voice matters! Be positive and polite. Bring a trusted friend or specialist to sit with you. Come prepared for questions and trust your instinct. You got this!

Notes

A blank sheet of lined paper with a yellow header and red vertical margin lines. The page is ruled with horizontal cyan lines and vertical red lines, creating a grid for writing notes.