



IEP Guide: Understanding the Individualized Education Program

Because every child deserves a learning plan that sees them fully

What Is an IEP?

An IEP (Individualized Education Program) is a legal document developed for students with disabilities who qualify for special education services. It outlines the student's learning needs, goals, accommodations, and the services the school will provide to support their success.

What's Inside an IEP?

- Present Levels of Performance: A snapshot of your child's current academic and functional skills
- Annual Goals: Measurable objectives tailored to your child's needs
- Special Education Services: Instruction, therapies, and supports provided
- Accommodations & Modifications: Adjustments to help your child access learning
- Progress Monitoring: How the school will track and report growth
- Placement: Where services will be delivered (general ed, resource room, etc.)

IEP Process Overview

1. Referral & Evaluation

- A parent, teacher, or provider can request an evaluation
- Assessments determine eligibility for services

2. Eligibility Meeting

- Team reviews results and decides if the child qualifies under IDEA

3. IEP Meeting

- Collaborative planning with parents, teachers, specialists, and sometimes the student

- Drafting goals, services, and supports
- 4. Implementation
 - The IEP is put into action
 - Teachers and staff follow the plan daily
- 5. Review & Updates
 - IEPs are reviewed annually
 - Re-evaluations typically occur every 3 years

Tips for Parents

-  *Prepare.* Bring notes, questions, and examples of your child's strengths and challenges
-  *Speak Up.* You are a vital part of the team—your voice matters
-  *Ask for Clarity.* Don't hesitate to request explanations or revisions
-  *Focus on Strengths.* Advocate for goals that build on what your child does well
-  *Keep Records.* Save copies of evaluations, IEPs, and communication

Printable Ideas to Pair With This Guide

- "IEP Meeting Prep Sheet"
- "My Child's Strengths & Needs" worksheet
- "Accommodations Cheat Sheet"
- "Progress Tracker" scroll
- "Parent Advocacy Affirmations" card se

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