



My Family Connection
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Welcome, Families!

Whether you are just getting started on your IEP journey or you are well seasoned, one thing is true, we all want the best for our children. Let's take some of the guesswork out of meetings so you can go in more prepared and ready to advocate for your child. These last few years have been confusing and hard, and no one has suffered more than our children with IEPs.

When it comes to navigating IEPs, there is a lot of language and information that is unique to the special education world. By receiving a draft of your child's IEP before the meeting you will have time to review it. With all of the unknowns, one thing I can do is make sure you are PREPARED and CONFIDENT going into the meeting. Here is a list of things that will help as you prepare for your next meeting.

Warmest Regards,

Charitie Carpenter

[Myfamilyconnection.com](http://myfamilyconnection.com)
<http://www.myfamilyconnection.com>
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Reminders and Tips

1. You should be asking and receiving a draft copy of the IEP. You need this so you have time to review and formulate any questions ahead of time.
2. Print off a copy of the draft IEP. This makes it easier to highlight your areas of concern! If you can't print, have a copy open on another device near you with your notes handy.
3. Placement decisions that would impact school in the fall, can proceed IF you feel confident in this decision.
 - Request the team revisit the placement determination 30-60 days into school to determine if the placement change is still appropriate.
4. These meetings may move more quickly.. Do not feel pressured into skipping through important sections of the IEP. If new data has been discovered, it is important to review it so present levels remain accurate. This could include additional testing, changes in medication or placement, or positives too.
5. Make sure you are given a copy of the notes at the end of the meeting. Acknowledge any discrepancy with an email back, restating what you thought occurred in the meeting.
6. When looking over service minutes, accommodations, modifications etc. Ask how these minutes will be served.
7. Document all interactions with school, whether in person, via phone, or email.



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What to Bring

- Your **IEP binder**
- A notepad and pen to take notes
- An **advocate** to take notes and support you (make sure the IEP team knows in advance)
- The current IEP plan
- A list of questions you want to address
- An **IEP goal progress tracker**, progress reports and report cards
- Work samples that illustrate progress or concerns
- Notes about strategies that do or don't seem to be working at home
- Any private evaluations you want to share
- Reports from your child's most recent school evaluation(s)
- Parent-school communication log** or other notes about phone calls, meetings, or emails to or from school
- A letter of parent concerns to attach to the IEP that lists your child's strengths, areas that are challenging, how your child is doing in and feeling about school, and other things you'd like noted
- A **folder** to keep documents received during the meeting—be sure to request a copy of any documents you sign during the meeting
- Tissues (IEP meetings can be emotional sometimes)
- A bottle of water (nerves and talking can make your mouth dry)
- A collaborative mindset



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Questions to Ask

1. Does any further testing or data collection need to happen before making specific changes within the IEP to make sure we are making appropriate decisions?
2. Have you fully discussed the supports needed in each environment to ensure the child is set up for success? This includes at home.
3. Have all service minutes been reviewed and clearly defined on how they will be used by each provider?
4. Has data collection been discussed and how will it be shared with the entire team, including the parent?

PARENTS: This is NOT an all-inclusive list. These are talking points to get the conversation started. These talking points open the door for a more collaborative meeting including all team members' opinions, input and goal needs. If at any time you feel your opinion, input or goal needs are not being met, you are under no obligation to sign the IEP and can table the meeting until a later date! Connect with Charitie and let's create a new plan that you are comfortable with. (you have 10 days by law to agree or disagree in writing to the IEP team)

THANK YOU for connecting with me to learn more for your child. Ready to get started together?

Set up an appointment by replying to this email now so we can create a plan to help your child reach their goals now. Or head over to <https://www.myfamilyconnection.com/contact-us> to get started.

Contact Information:

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