

Understanding the IFSP and IEP process

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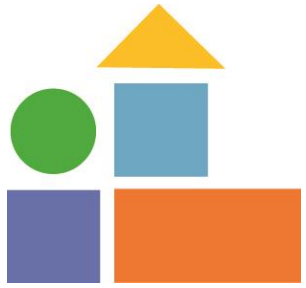
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Alphabet Soup: What do all these acronyms mean??

- FAPE
- LRE
- IEP
- IFSP
- SLP
- IDEA
- LEA
- RTI
- LD
- SLI
- FERPA
- ESY





Learning Objectives

- Identify the difference between IEPs, IFSPs and 504 plans
- Understand your role in IEP/IFSP/504 development
- Know your rights as a parent in the process

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- Extension of national civil rights issues
- Requires a *free and appropriate education* (FAPE)
- Children should be educated in least restrictive environment (LRE)
- Child find services
- Parents are an important part of the decision-making team
- Part B (IEP) and Part C (IFSP)



IFSP(Part C) vs. IEP (Part B)

What's the difference?

Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) (Part C of IDEA)

- Early Intervention
- Ages 0-3
- Focuses on the needs of the child **and** the family
- Identifies services to meet the child's developmental needs

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) (Part B of IDEA)

- School-based
- Ages 3-21
- Focuses on the educational needs of the child
- Identifies additional services, accommodations, and modifications

Who's eligible for an IEP?



- Students must meet at least one of the 13 disability categories
 - Hearing Impairment
 - Deafness
 - Visual Impairment
 - Deaf-Blind
 - Specific Learning Disability
 - Speech or Language Impairment
 - Intellectual Disability
 - Emotional Disturbance
 - Orthopedic Impairment
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Multiple Disabilities
 - Other Health Impairment

A disability alone does not automatically
qualify a child for an IEP



Child must have a disability **AND** as a result of that disability...
Need special education in order to make progress in school

Navigating the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Process

Pre-Referral

During the pre-referral phase, parents work together with teachers and staff to try and resolve problems informally within the classroom.



Referral

If informal measures are not solving the problem, you can request an evaluation for special services. Referrals can be made by parents, teachers, or other staff.

Informed Consent

After receiving a referral, the school district has 15 days to provide you with a plan for evaluating your child's needs. After reviewing it, you have 15 days to sign the consent before testing can begin.

Send a Letter

15 Days

Provide Consent

IEP Meeting

After the evaluation is done, you will meet with involved school personnel to review results and discuss your child's needs. If your child qualifies, you will discuss what services your child will receive and establish goals for the next year.

Evaluation

Qualified school district personnel will assess your child to determine whether he/she needs special education services. Evaluations may be conducted by the school psychologist, speech/language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, and others as needed.

Attend IEP Meeting

30 Days

Be Evaluated

60 Days

Revisions

The IEP is reviewed annually or whenever you request a review meeting. Every 3 years, your child will be re-assessed to make sure the services are the best fit for your needs.

NOTE: Timelines are based on standards for families in California. Your state may vary.

Implement Plan

Attend Annual Review Meetings

Implementation

Once you have signed the IEP, it will be implemented as soon as possible. If you disagree with the plan, you can request mediation to resolve the dispute.

Prepared by Nicole Connolly, Ph.D.
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School Success!



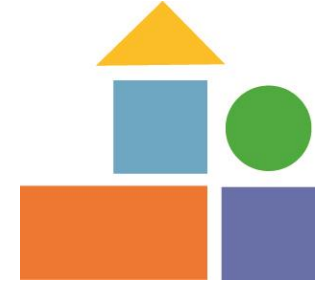
Assessments

- Written parental consent required for evaluation
- Identify areas of need that can be addressed as goals in the IEP
- Determine special education placement/services
- Copy of evaluation report must be provided to parents
- Complete re-evaluation every 3 years

IEP Meetings: What is discussed?

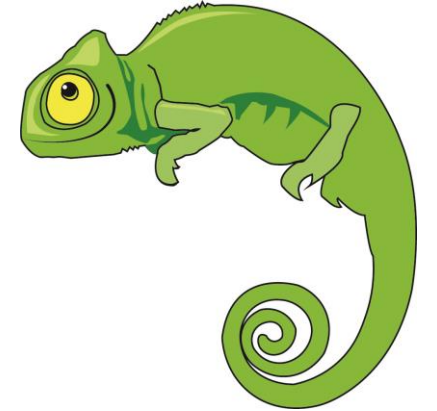
- Present Levels of Progress (PLOPs)
- Goals
- Testing
- Accommodations
- Service Provision

Who attends IEP meetings?



- Parents
- General education teacher
- Special Education Teacher or Deaf Educator
- Other service providers (if needed)
 - Speech-Language Pathologist
 - Educational audiologist
 - Occupational therapists/Physical therapists
 - School Psychologist
- Representative from School District
- Interpreter for family's native language
- Anyone you want to bring
- Your child!

What if my child doesn't qualify for an IEP?



Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Eligibility for a 504 plan requires a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits at least one major life activity (e.g., walking, writing, hearing, etc.)

Examples of accommodations in 504 plans

- Preferential seating
- Extended time for processing
- Captioning services (CART)
- FM systems
- Reduction of auditory distractions
- Visual supplements
- Behavior management support
- *Services such as DHH itinerant services or speech therapy could possibly be provided under a 504 Plan*

IEP vs. 504

What's the difference?

IEP

- IDEA
- Provides individualized special education and related services
- Monitored by special education/related service provider

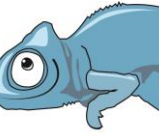
504 Plan

- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Modifies a student's education program in a regular classroom setting
- Monitored by classroom teachers



Keep in Mind:

- Team members can call for a meeting any time
- Plans should be reviewed annually
- Dispute resolution procedures
- Information must be provided in native language of family



Collaborate with the Education Team

Goal: meeting the needs of the child



Some barriers to team building:

- Communication
- Feelings of inferiority
- Not understanding the disability
- Stereotyping
- Negative attitudes
- Lack of understanding of IEP process

Tips for Parents

1. Stay active and involved!
2. You can request changes at any time
3. Write down your goals and thoughts before meetings
4. Bring an advocate to meetings
5. It's an INDIVIDUALIZED Education Plan! Get creative!
6. Participate in classroom/therapy sessions



Resources

- <https://idea.ed.gov>
- https://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/for-parents/ieps_504/
- <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/iepcontents/#contents>

Thank you for listening!

Please contact us at www.heartolearn.org