



Special Education: What You Need to Know



Your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is based on their unique strengths and needs. The IEP describes what your child's school district will provide so they receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).



You are a critical member of your child's IEP team because you know your child best! Your involvement and participation is essential for success.



Every step you take should have your child's adult life in mind. Dream big dreams and share them with the team. Special education services should help your child be prepared for adulthood: further education, employment, and independent living!



Special education is a service, not a place. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) says kids with disabilities should be educated alongside kids without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate, and only removed if they cannot make progress, even when provided services and supports.



Share information about your child, ask questions, and stay involved. Prepare parent input and a one-page profile for every IEP meeting. Take notes and follow up. Stay solution-oriented and have a game plan. You can do this!



An IEP is developed with a step-by-step process. Placement is separate from the IEP and comes last. Remember to build a strong foundation in Special Factors and Present Levels to get the Goals, Services, and Placement appropriate for your child!



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

FACT Oregon is here for you! Our parent-led staff have been there, done that. Our support line is available to help answer your questions, and equip you with the information and skills you need as your child's best advocate.



Additional resources
available at factoregon.org



Questions? Call 503-786-6082 | 888-288-FACT
or email support@factoregon.org

Notes

I learned...

What surprised you? What feels most important?

I need to know...

What are your questions for the presenter? What are your questions for others, such as your case manager?

I will...

What are your next steps?