

If You Know Nothing Else About Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) You Need to Know This



1. The IEP is an individualized program for providing special education and related services to children with disabilities ages 3 to 21.
2. When a child is considered for special education, the school will look at the child's unique needs and how he or she can best access their education. Educational and medical needs are not the same thing and the school will look at how the disability affects the child's education.
3. Educational needs include academic, functional and developmental concerns. Functional may include age appropriate behaviors, self-help skills, organizational skills, social skills, sensory concerns, etc.
4. Parent input is included in the evaluation process because parents are the expert on their child and they provide valuable information to the schools. Evaluations are completed upon entering special education and then every three years, or as needed. It is important for parents to know what is in this report and if it is an accurate reflection of their child. This report is called a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) report.
5. If the MDT report is accurate the information from that report will be used in developing goals in the IEP.
6. If the MDT report is not an accurate reflection of the child, parents can request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE).
7. The IEP team will develop annual goals that address the child's educational needs. Then the team will consider the child's placement and where the goals can best be met. The supports and services the school will provide to the child/staff will be documented in the IEP.
8. Parents have rights under special education law and have resources available to them to assist in the process. In Nebraska, parents can contact PTI Nebraska to help navigate the special education process and get their questions answered.
9. You can contact PTI Nebraska at 1-800-284-8520.

