

Planning Your Child's Education



1. When your child is in middle school:

- You will be asked to come to Parent/Teacher conferences to discuss your child's education.
- You need to encourage your child to start and finish homework as independently as possible, but you may need to offer some help.
- You are in charge of making sure homework is being done.

2. At the Parent/Teacher conferences, **if you hear your child needs extra help:**

- Ask what has been working and what has not.
- Ask what you can do at home to help.
- Refer your child for a special education evaluation, if needed.

3. If your child is getting special education services:

- You will be asked to attend an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) meeting.
- Your child can attend the IEP meetings and will be encouraged to speak up for himself or herself.
- Your job is to ask questions, listen and tell teachers your concerns.
- Your child's IEP should be followed.
- If you have any problems, ask for an IEP meeting.
- Keep written records of meetings, phone calls and conversations.
- Get a copy of the *Educational Rights and Responsibilities at:* http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/html/parent_rights.htm or ask your DSCC Care Coordination Team for a copy.
- Remember, all children with an IEP have the right to a free and appropriate education. It is your job to make sure that your child's special needs are being met.
- If you still disagree with your school, either ask for mediation in writing or locate an advocate to assist you. For help locating an advocate, call **Equip for Equality in Illinois** at **1-800-537-2632**.

4. Your school should assist in meeting your child's therapy and health care needs during the school day.

5. You may find helpful the **Bright Futures** website link to the **Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meeting Checklist** at: <http://www.brightfutures.org/mentalhealth/pdf/families/mc/iep.pdf>.

6. **Parent Training and Information Centers** conduct free seminars on the special education rights of children with disabilities. For Chicago area residents, contact the **Family Resource Center on Disabilities**, (312) 939-3513, TDD (312) 939-3519, <http://www.frcd.org/>. Families outside of Chicago can call **Family Matters** toll free at **1-866-4FMPTIC (1-866-436-7842)**, **Voice/TTY 217-347-5428** or visit online at: <http://www.fmptic.org/index.htm>.

We're here to help. To learn more about UIC-Specialized Care for Children's programs and services, check out our website at:

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