

## Planning Your Child's Education



1. **Before your child gets in school:**
  - Consider the plan you have for your child for the future.
  - List your child's strengths, needs, interests and your major concerns.
2. **As your child gets in school:**
  - You will be asked to come to Parent/Teacher conferences.
  - You are in charge of making sure homework is being done.
3. **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.
4. **If your child is getting special education services:**
  - You will be asked to attend an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) meeting.
  - Your job is to ask questions, listen, and tell them 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](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/html/parent_rights.htm) or ask your DSCC Care Coordination Team for a copy.
5. **Parent Training and Information Centers** conduct free seminars on the special education rights of youth 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, 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>.
6. If you need a person to help you during your meetings (an advocate), call **Equip for Equality in Illinois** at 1-800-537-2632 or ask your DSCC Care Coordinator to attend.
7. Remember, all children 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.