

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:*
<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Parent-rights.aspx> 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.

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

dsc.uic.edu or like us on  facebook.com/dsc.uic.edu