

Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

What is an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

An IEP is a written education plan, created by your child's school. It is for students who need extra help with learning, speech, handwriting or walking. The IEP is made up of goals that are specially written for your child to help them succeed at school.

How do I know if my child is eligible?

Children who have one or more of the following may benefit from an IEP:

- Autism
- Developmental Delay
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment / Deafness
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech/Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment / Blindness

If you are not sure that your child has any of these problems, but think special education services may help them, talk to your child's school. Ask them about testing your child to see if they qualify for extra classroom help through an IEP.

What is the IEP referral and testing process?

The referral is the first step in the IEP process. The referral can be made by

- A parent or guardian.
- A healthcare or school professional.

Ask your child's teacher about the school's process to refer a child for IEP testing.

The testing team could include a special education teacher or therapists to assess speech, writing, and walking. Who is on the team will depend on your child's needs.

The school has 60 days to do the testing and decide if your child is eligible for an IEP.

What happens after the evaluation?

A meeting is scheduled with the people who did the testing. They will review the results with you. You are a part of this team and can have input in every step of the process.

Where can I get more information?

Understood.org. A good site about learning and attention issues. The site has a link where you can learn more about the IEP process. (School & Learning ⇔ Special Services).

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.