



# CONNOR

## **We feel prepared to set our son up for success now and in his future**

Contacting Families Helping Families and talking with Ms. Nicole not only helped us with the knowledge of what we were about to face, but it also assured us that we weren't alone. Gaining the expertise and experience from someone else who has dealt with IEPs on a regular basis provided us with invaluable insight into the process and some specifics we would have been unaware to even look for.

One thing that was especially helpful was that Ms. Nicole understands the needs of special needs kids not only as a professional but also as a parent. She fully understood our concerns that are often downplayed by school administrators, such as the very real possibility of elopement and aggression. Adults without children, or with neuro-typical children, may see these issues as dramatic and like a "worst-case scenario." But for the parents of kiddos with special needs, this is a realistic concern in our everyday lives. Through her unique understanding, Ms. Nicole

was able to give us the tools and the language to use to insist that a thorough elopement plan and behavior assessment were done (even when we were told they were not necessary).

We went to our IEP feeling confident and prepared. Throughout the meeting we saw Ms. Nicole's words, experiences and recommendations unfold almost word for word. Her assistance was greatly appreciated. She had made sure we understood our rights and were able to make our son's team hear us and address our concerns.

We are especially lucky to have started this process for our son early in his schooling and hand in hand with Ms. Nicole and Families Helping Families. We feel prepared to set our son up for success now and in his future.

Thank you,

*Jeanne, Chris, and Connor Black*