



LaPTIC

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

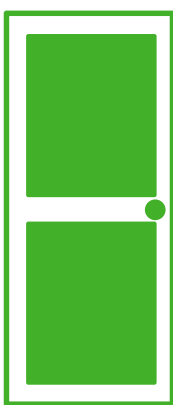
Thanks to a federal law called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), children with disabilities are entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). This means that schools must provide eligible children who have a disability with specially designed instruction to meet their unique needs at no cost to the children's parents. This specially designed instruction is known as SPECIAL EDUCATION.



One of the most important parts of the special education process is creating a plan for your child's education based on his/her individual needs. This plan is called the Individualized Education Program, or the IEP. The IEP is the foundation for your child's education. YOU are a critical member of the team that develops it because you know your child best!

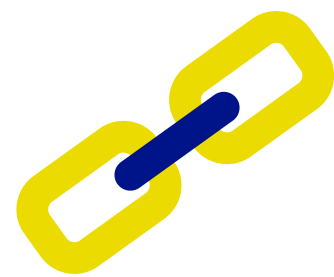
*dream*

Every step you take should have your child's adult life in mind. Dream big dreams and share them with the IEP team. Special education services should help your child be prepared for adulthood: further education, employment, and independent living.



Special education is a service, not a place. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) says kids with disabilities should be educated alongside kids without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate, and only removed if they cannot make progress, even when provided services and supports.

Share information about your child, ask questions, and stay involved. Prepare parent input and a one-page profile for every IEP meeting. Take notes and follow up. Stay solution-oriented and have a game plan. YOU CAN DO THIS!



**We are here for you!**

An IEP is developed with a step-by-step process. Placement is separate from the IEP and comes last. Remember to build a strong foundation in Special Factors and Present Levels to get the Goals, Services, and Placement appropriate for your child!



Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans is the Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center (LaPTIC). Our parent-led staff have been there, done that. Our support line is available to help answer your questions, and equip you with the information and skills you need as your child's best advocate.