

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PARENT

Just as you have rights as the parent of a child with special needs, there are many ways you can help make sure your child's rights are respected and protected. These suggestions may be helpful:

➤ **Learn As Much As You Can About Your Rights And The Rights Of Your Child**

The more you know about your rights under federal law, the better you can make sure your child's school is honoring them. If you have any questions about your rights as a parent, ask your Family Resources Coordinator, school or educational agency.

➤ **Become a Partner with Your Child's Preschool, School, or Education Agency**

Because you know your child better than anyone, you are a key member of a team whose job it is to help your child get the best education possible. Your input is an important resource to the educators and other professionals who work with your child.

➤ **Understand the Program in Your Child's IFSP or IEP**

Ask questions until you are sure you understand. Don't sign the IFSP until you are sure you understand all of it.

➤ **Keep Track of Your Child's Progress**

If your child is not progressing as well as you think he should, talk with his teacher or providers. You have the right to ask for a review of your child's educational program at any time.

➤ **Keep Records**

Each year, keep a notebook to write down questions or comments about your child's progress or educational program. Take notes whenever you meet with staff, talk on the phone, or send notes to teachers or other staff. Write down dates, times, what happened, and the names of the people involved. These notes can be a helpful reminder for you and for your child's educators.

It is important to make sure that the professionals who work with your child understand your concerns. Often, problems can be easily resolved once your concerns are made known.

