

Back-to-School Checklist for IEP Families

Before School Starts

Review the IEP

- ☐ Re-read your child's current IEP with fresh eyes.
- ☐ Check the date of the annual review and triennial evaluation.
- ☐ Review goals. Do they still reflect your child's current needs?
- ☐ Review accommodations. Would a brand-new teacher understand exactly how to implement each one?
- ☐ Review related services (speech, OT, PT, counseling, etc.)

Introduce Your Child to the New Team

- ☐ Write a one-page "About my Child" summary highlighting strengths, learning style, and accommodations that matter most
- ☐ Email the teacher and case manager early before there is a problem to solve

Prepare your Child

- ☐ Visit the school or classroom before the first day if possible.
- ☐ Attend orientation and meet the teacher.
- ☐ Look at staff photos on the school website together.
- ☐ Walk through what the first morning will look like, step by step
- ☐ Practice the morning routine

Stay Organized

- ☐ Gather important IEP documents in one folder
- ☐ Set up a system for saving school emails and logging calls or meetings



During the First Two Weeks

Watch and Follow Up

- ☐ Confirm that related services have started
- ☐ Ask your child how accommodations are working
- ☐ Watch for changes in behavior, anxiety, or homework struggles

If Something Doesn't Seem Right

- ☐ Start with a conversation. Most early issues are communication gaps, not refusals
- ☐ Reach out early rather than waiting to see if it resolves
- ☐ Request a meeting if concerns continue

Remember

Your child's IEP follows them into every new school year. New teachers may need a little time to get organized, but the services and supports in your child's IEP should be in place from the start. The supports don't reset. The rights don't pause. You don't have to start over.

