



WHAT CAN I DO TO ADVOCATE FOR MY CHILD?

As a parent of a child with disabilities, you are the most important person in your child's education.

THINGS I CAN DO FOR MY CHILD

- Know your child's rights and your rights as a parent and be assertive about them.
- Learn everything you possibly can about your child's abilities and disabilities.
- Seek out other parents and organizations for information and support. You can call NIPIC at 1-877-205-7501 for information about where to find resources in your state.
- Attend all meetings concerning your child.
- Request your child's teachers keep you informed of your child's progress or problems.
- Ask questions. Share information concerning your child. Let the teacher know how you feel about your child's program.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE BEFORE A MEETING?

- Visit the classroom to watch the child at school
- Read information in the child's records, including evaluation information
- Write out questions or concerns you have. Be prepared to bring them up at the meeting

HOW CAN I BE MORE EFFECTIVE AT THE MEETING?

- Express the issues you want to have resolved at the meeting
- Bring a friend or relative to attend the meeting to take notes so you can concentrate on the discussion
- Bring medical documents or reports from any evaluations
- Give examples of
 1. your child's positive and negative behaviors,
 2. Home issues that may have an effect on child's learning
 3. How the child learns
 4. Positive enforcement for the child: what works
- Tell the team about your suggestions for goals and objectives, related services, supports, modifications and placement