



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act & The Individualized Education Program

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) states that all children in the U.S. have a right to a "free appropriate public education" mandating the creation of an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

The team of specialists involved in diagnosing your child may include:

- Child psychologists
- Child psychiatrists
- Speech pathologists
- Developmental pediatricians
- Pediatric neurologists
- Audiologists
- Physical therapists
- Special education teachers

IEP's are designed for one child to meet that child's specific special education needs. It sets goals and objectives and describes what services a child will receive as part of his or her special education program.

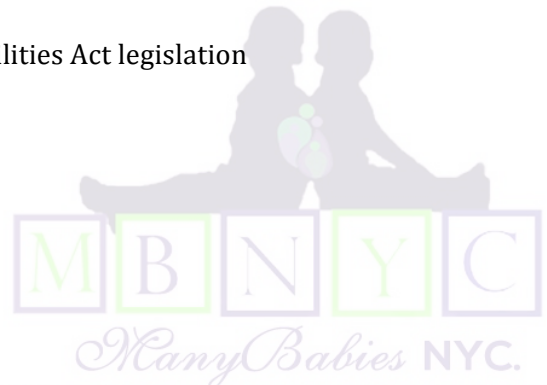
Understanding the terminology used in IEP meetings is vital. Here are some important things to know when advocating for your child's rights and services:

- No one should feel intimidated attending an IEP meeting.
- Prior to the scheduled meeting you are entitled to:
 - Advance copies of evaluations completed on your child.
 - An advocate, trusted family member or friend present at the IEP meeting.

The evaluations, records and reports regarding your child should be provided to you before the IEP Team meeting. Your school may not offer it to you but you can ask the school to make these documents available to you before your scheduled IEP meeting.

You have the right to request that this information is translated into your preferred language if English is not your first language.

[Click here](#) to read the entire Individuals with Disabilities Act legislation



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