

Ten Tips for Caregivers

Teaching students in the inclusive classroom requires teamwork, communication and dedication.

You are your child's expert.



Brag about your child's strengths. Share your tips and tricks that work at home, they will work at school or in the community too. Hold your criticisms and save negative feedback for important issues or concerns.

Develop a Rapport.



Talk with teachers in person! Encourage the teacher to voice concerns, hopes and fears. Ask how you can best help and support the teachers.

Keep the IEP Meaningful.



Remember the IEP is a working document. Focus on a few simple goals which are meaningful for your child. Slowly add more complex goals over time. Write goals that promote active learning in the classroom.

Communicate Expectations.



Tell how your child can participate and that you expect daily participation in the classroom. Model how to provide physical assistance.

Vote!!!



Keep up with public policies and vote for representatives who support the rights and needs of citizens with disabilities.

Thank a Teacher.



Teaching in a diverse and inclusive classroom is challenging. Thank a teacher or therapist for their contributions. The school team benefits from your comments and learns from what they are doing well.

Join a Parent Organization.



Gain emotional support and share ideas and insights with other families. Friends and peers are natural supports for adults too!!

Be Flexible.



Remember that with very little funding, your school must educate all their students. Ask how you can best support the school team. Every small step towards inclusion counts.

Share your story.



Teachers and other providers learn about your child through the stories you share. Often, it's the most interesting way to learn about the student.

Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences.



Reinforce team efforts to keep you well informed. Come to the IEP meetings, and attend all parent-teacher conferences. Contribute to the discussions and share your knowledge with others.