

Preparing for Your Child's IEP Meeting

1. **Obtain and review important documents:** Before the Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting, make sure you have your child's current IEP and recent evaluations. Read these documents to better understand your child's educational needs.
2. **Reflect on your child's progress:** Think about how your child has grown and improved in the past year. Make a list of these achievements to share at the meeting.
3. **Identify your concerns:** List your primary concerns for the upcoming school year and IEP meeting. Rank these concerns in order of importance.
4. **Assess your child's current abilities and needs:**
 - Consider how your child's disability affects their learning.
 - List your child's strengths.
 - Identify learning opportunities for your child.
 - Think about what your child needs to learn next.
 - Determine if current evaluations are sufficient or if more are needed. Be ready to request additional evaluations if necessary.
 - Envision your child's progress in each goal area for the next year.
5. **Prepare questions:** Write down any specific questions you want to discuss at the IEP meeting.
6. **Suggest goals and objectives:** List any goals or objectives you believe should be included in your child's IEP.
7. **Other factors to consider:**
 - Communication between you and the school
 - Accommodations and modifications
 - Extended School Year (ESY) services
 - Behavior management
 - Social and communication skills development
 - Related services (e.g., speech therapy, occupational therapy)
 - State/district assessment participation
 - Extracurricular and non-academic activities
 - Transition planning
8. **Review the draft IEP:** Request a copy of the school's draft IEP before the meeting. Read it carefully and note any questions or concerns you have.
9. **Create an agenda:** Plan what you want to discuss at the IEP meeting and the desired outcome. Being prepared helps you advocate effectively for your child.
10. **Seek help if needed:** If you have specific questions about your child's IEP or need assistance, contact PPMD at <https://www.ppmmd.org/contact/> or (410) 768-9100.

Adapted from Partners Resource Network's [ARD Meeting Prep Sheet](#)