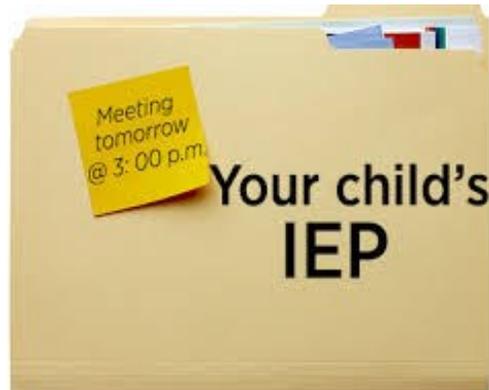


# Fine Tuning the IEP

By:

**Shanida Mathieu**



Creating and fine-tuning an IEP is an emotional experience for families. It is a time to remind ourselves that we are the leaders and experts on our own child. Just as you do a checkup annually for your health, the same applies to the health of your child's IEP. Current and relevant...this is what's important It's time to review the IEP from last year if being carried over to this year or to review the IEP that was developed at the end of last school year for this year to be sure it meets your child's needs today. Summer is almost over. Look at your child's IEP. A lot happened over the summer. Are some of the goals still valid? Maybe you see more goals to be added. The IEP is a "living document" and as you know, living things require attention. The IEP process and special education can be tricky and cumbersome.

Now is the time for reflection. Reflection about what didn't work last year, what worked and what you can do differently to be a more effective advocate for your child. Do your due diligence and bring your list of concerns, new goals and requests to the meeting, this will lessen the amount of time spent hashing out details and show them you are educated and involved in the process.

Deciding IEP goals and designing your child's special education plan can be one of the most frustrating and rewarding experiences. The law supports not only your child receiving an appropriate education, but also supports you as an equal member of the IEP team.

Continued on next page



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Do not let this important role intimidate you. By attending the many free webinars and workshops which we provide, you will gain a better understanding of how to effectively prepare, out-of-the box and vision planning to become the best advocate for your child.

If things are going great, keep doing what you are doing. If not, try something different that might lead to better results. Remember, there can be no growth without change! Join me to learn about this individual education plan:

**Parent Involvement in Special Education:** Families and educators will gain an understanding of the essential components of an Individualized Education Plan. Parents will be able to read and understand an IEP document, be able to effectively participate in IEP meetings and know how to address concerns in a proactive and positive way.

Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2015  
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Registration link:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8226317669045242369>

**Parent Involvement in Special Education:** Families and educators will gain an understanding of the essential components of an Individualized Education Plan. Parents will be able to read and understand an IEP document, be able to effectively participate in IEP meetings and know how to address concerns in a proactive and positive way.

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2015  
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Presenter: Shanida Mathieu, FHF

Registration link:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1270364008548313089>

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