

## A Parents Review

**A great way for parents to advocate for their children with disabilities.**

**Parents want to speak on behalf of their children and be strong advocates. A "Parent's Review"© is an easy-to-use tool that supports parents as leaders in their child's life.**

**Below is a simple list of ideas for parents who want to do a presentation on behalf of their child at their IEP meeting.**

1. Plan for your child's IEP meeting by preparing a presentation on behalf of your child and make copies for the participants.

Your Parent's Review might include:

- A picture of your child – name, age, grade level. Identify his/her gifts and strengths. This is a great way to start the meeting.
  - Your personal mission statement. Start with this statement: "As a leader in my child's life my mission is ..."
  - A thank you note to the team acknowledging the work they did with your child during the past year that helped him/her be successful. Be specific if you can. \* **This is very powerful!**
    - Ex: Ms. Smith provided new and successful speech therapy strategies this year that resulted in an increase in Sam's language and communication skills.
  - A review/overview of your child's year with a strong focus on the successes and celebrations at school and at home. No celebration is too small to mention!
  - State concerns if you have any.
  - Share success strategies: Start with this statement ~ My child is successful when.....
  - Share your hopes and dreams for your child with the team.
  - Share your nightmares.
  - Share your positive & possible expectations for next year using this prompt .. "If next year was the best year ever for my child ~ what would it look like?" Positive and possible outcomes are best.
  - Share expectations you have for your child, for yourself, and for the educational team.
  - End with a summary and address the specific information you want to convey.
2. **Start** the meeting. Call the director or team leader and let them know that you are going to start the meeting. Share how much time you need. \* it is very important for the parent to start the meeting!
  3. Introduce yourself and invite others to introduce themselves and tell how they are involved with your child's education.
  4. Share your parent's review with the team, ask if the team has any questions or need for clarification and request that a copy be attached to the IEP document.
  5. Proceed with the meeting
  6. End the meeting by reviewing the key ideas and check for clarity regarding next steps. Thank everyone!

**By Nancy Brown ~ [Nancy.french.brown@gmail.com](mailto:Nancy.french.brown@gmail.com)**

