

Where to Find More Information

The DoDEA Parent's Guide to Special Education includes a list of Internet resources on this topic and many others. The guide can be downloaded at the Department of Defense Education Agency (DoDEA) Special Education Home Page. http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm

Sites Especially for Military Families

For more information about Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), visit www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/efm and click on "EFMP," speak to a Special Needs Coordinator at your local military treatment facility, or visit one of the service-specific Web sites listed in the "For Information and Assistance" section.

Military OneSource - A Master's-degree consultant is available to provide help with concerns related to children with special needs 24 hours a day. Translation services are available in most languages. Call 1-800-655-4545 (in US and overseas). <http://www.militaryonesource.com>

Systematic Training for Military Parents (STOMP) provides information, training, and assistance to military families who have children with disabilities. <http://www.stompproject.org>

Other Important Sites

Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers - Locator to find state parent training and information centers and links to scientifically-based research, national information centers, and IDEA. <http://www.taalliance.org>

National Dissemination Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities - Clearinghouse of information about special education and specific disabilities, summaries of key topics and points of contact in each state. <http://www.nichcy.org>

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) - <http://www.peatc.org>

IDEA Partnerships

Portal to resources related to IDEA, the law, national technical assistance providers, state/ local organizations and agencies, and the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). <http://www.ideapartnership.org>

U.S. Department of Education - information on special education, parent involvement, education research, laws and regulations. <http://www.ed.gov>

Non-DoD informational references are being provided as required by IDEA but their inclusion in this material does not constitute any endorsement by DoDEA.

DoDEA Special Education Series

The complete series of brochures and other resources for parents of students with disabilities are available on the DoDEA special education website at http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm.

Special Education Brochures

1. Pre-referral Interventions: Steps Before a Special Education Referral/Assessment
2. Moving: Things to Remember When Relocating
3. Communicating Effectively: Building a Strong Partnership
4. Individualized Education Program (IEP): Your Role in the Process
5. Related Services: Understanding the Purpose of these Services
6. Early Intervention Services: Transitioning to Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities
7. Transition: Planning for Life After High School
8. Parent Rights and Responsibilities: Insights into Your Rights and Responsibilities
9. Resolving Disputes: Your Role in Reaching Resolutions
10. Assistive Technology: Assessment, Devices, and Available Services



Parent Rights and Responsibilities Insights into Your Rights and Responsibilities

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Parent Rights and Responsibilities Insights into Your Rights and Responsibilities

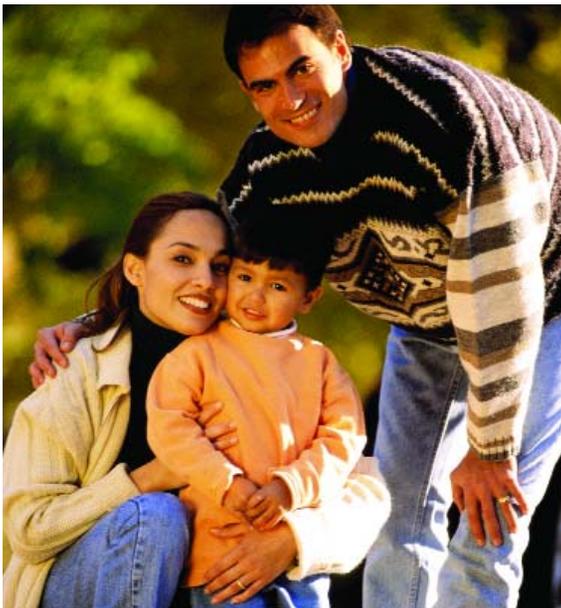
Understanding Your Rights

In planning for the education of your child, you have the right to be heard and respected. These rights do not change when your child needs special education. However, you do have additional rights that help ensure your child's needs are addressed, and a responsibility to be involved in his or her education planning.

As a parent, you have the right to be considered a full participating member of the Case Study Committee (CSC) when planning for your child, and to be included in the development of your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). In addition, you are encouraged to provide information about your child that can be used in developing interventions, evaluation planning and educational programs.

Your additional rights as a parent include:

Documentation: You must give written permission before any formal evaluations can



begin and must also receive written notice prior to any changes in your child's placement or programs.

Assessment: You are entitled to a complete evaluation for your child, conducted by trained personnel from various educational and/or medical areas of expertise; to receive copies of those results; and to have those results explained in a language you can understand. All tests must be provided in your child's native language (unless clearly not feasible), and test instruments must be nondiscriminatory. In addition, you have the right to request an independent assessment at DoDEA expense if you disagree with the assessment results.

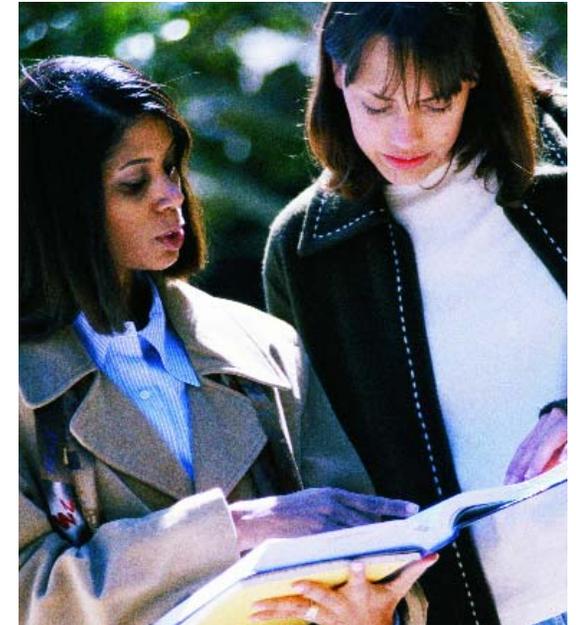
Records: You are entitled to access your child's records, receive copies of those records, have someone available to explain the records, and know who has seen those records. In addition, you have the right to confidentiality for your child's records and all activities within the special education services your child receives.

Education Services: You have the right to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) that addresses your child's individual needs, and to receive related services necessary for your child to benefit from his or her special education services.

Mediation: If differences regarding your child's program or services can not be resolved by other means, you have the right to mediation and due process.

Knowing Your Responsibilities

Along with your rights as a parent come numerous responsibilities. By being actively involved in the educational planning process, you



can ensure your child receives the services needed for him or her to thrive in school and at home. Your other responsibilities as a parent include:

- Participating in meetings regarding your child and being prepared to discuss issues of concern you have.
- Asking questions to ensure you understand what is happening.
- Providing all the relevant information needed for planning and program development.
- Letting the school personnel know about any changes in your child's life, both positive and negative, including areas of growth, changes in health and medication, and difficulties your child is having.
- Educating yourself regarding the rules and regulations governing special education services.